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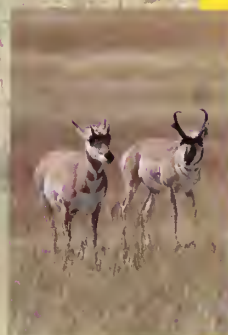
CUSTER COUNTRY MONTANA

1995 Vacation Guide 1996

Montana



- *Historic Little Bighorn Battlefield*
- *Hunting, Fishing and Camping Adventures*
- *Captivating Wildlife Watching*
- *Story Telling Museums*
- *Down Home County Fairs & Fireworks*
- *Exciting Wagon Train Rides*
- *Traditional Indian Dancing*
- *RipRoaring Rodeo*
- *Authentic Cattle Drives*



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For Free Distribution

**60 Miles East of Custer Battlefield on Highway 212 -
the shortest route between the Black Hills and Yellowstone Park!**



**St. Labre Indian School
Ashland, Montana**

Visit Historic St. Labre Indian Mission & School



St. Labre Indian School made a humble beginning in 1884 with the construction of a log cabin school operated by four Ursuline Sisters. Today, St. Labre is responsible for the welfare and education of nearly 700 Indian children.

▲ The tipi of the Plains Indians inspired the architecture of the St. Labre Chapel. The great wooden beam that runs through the ceiling skyward, rests in the "smoke hole" opening. On either side of this great cross beam are beautiful stained glass windows.

Visitors are welcome!

Tours Conducted 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
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For more information, call (406)784-2200.

Cheyenne Indian Museum and Ten Bears Gallery

Located on the Mission grounds, our museum and gallery feature an extensive collection of Indian artifacts from the Northern Cheyenne, Crow, Sioux and several other tribes.

Items for sale include:

- Handmade beaded moccasins
- Jewelry, keychains
- Pocketbooks, beaded clothing
- Paintings
- Traditional Indian dancing regalia
- Hand-painted eggs
- Pottery



▲ For the processional cross of St. Labre Church, Christ (the man and savior) is represented by a beautifully carved figure of the Cheyenne dog soldier and sun dancer.



▲ This Cheyenne love flute was carved by Grover Wolf Voice.

Hardin, Montana Presents...

'Custer's Last Stand' & 'Heart of the West'



Photo: Craig Warren



Photo: Craig Warren

Now On
Video



Photo: Milt Wester

Enjoy the sights and excitement of Southeastern Montana from the comfort of your living room. To help in planning your trip, write for your copy of "Hardin, Montana: In the Heart of the American West." This exciting 13 minute video illustrates the sights that are waiting for you: from the Little Bighorn Battlefield to the splendor of 70 mile long Bighorn Canyon. To order your copy of this exciting video fill out the order blank below. Also available is "Custer's Last Stand Re-Enactment" where a cast of hundreds re-creates Custer's last battle with the Sioux and Cheyenne. (Use the order form below)

For Hardin & Re-Enactment Details, See pages 81-92



In The Heart Of The American West

Historic Hardin & Big Horn County

HOTELS & ACCOMMODATIONS

- Five motels
- Bed & Breakfast
- Restaurants
- Fort Custer 9 hole golf course

HARDIN COMMUNITY CENTER

An indoor 25-meter swimming pool, children's pool, sauna, and workout area.

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A distinctive oil-wooden playground designed by a prominent builder who originated the concept.

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- 5 in Hardin
- Fort Smith
- Other locations along Bighorn River
- Teepees Available
- 5 fishing accesses to Bighorn River
- Boat dock and marina at Bighorn Canyon

CASH MACHINE

ATM at First Interstate Bank in Hardin.

ATTRACTIONS

- Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument (formerly Custer Battlefield)
- Custer National Cemetery
- Rosebud Battlefield
- Chief Plenty Coups State Park
- Yellowtail Dam
- Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area
- Hayfield Battlefield
- Big Horn County Historical Museum
- Coal Mine Tours
- Bighorn River
- City Parks

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Hardin, Montana 59034 U.S.A.

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Rte. 1, Box 1206A
Hardin, MT 59034

(406) 665-1671
1-800-346-1876

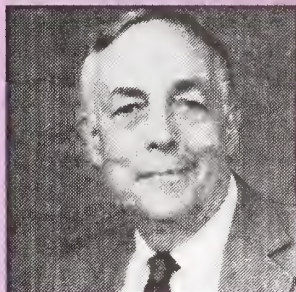
How to Use This Guide

Custer Country, Inc. welcomes you to our tourism region of Montana, comprising 36,500 square miles, having 360 miles of interstate highway, 950 miles of paved state roads and who knows how many miles of country roads.

Here is how to find your way through this tourist guide. Major travel arteries of the region follow along I-90, I-94, and Highway 212. Lots of the fun, scenery and attractions highlighted in the guide are off the beaten path, however.

Therefore, we guide you through the region in a serpentine pattern, starting with easternmost Wibaux on I-94 and ending with westernmost Laurel on I-90. Our pages take you from town to town, telling you about what there is to see and to do in each one.

Topics of general interest throughout the region, maps and charts are included to help you find out more about your special interests.



President John Trangmoe
Glendive



Vice President Dixie
Myhre, Musselshell

Cover Photos: Re-Enactment scene, Robert Kelleher; antelope and longhorn cattle, Phil Bell; fishing on the Bighorn River, R. Valentine Atkinson.

Custer Country

A Publication of the Custer Country Tourism Region

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The Logo for Custer Country, Inc. was designed by Donna Fanyak, Roundup, Montana. The double C's represent the close bond of the 13 counties and two Indian Reservations that make up this special tourism region.

—Custer Country Vacation Guide—

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Route #1, Box 1206A, Hardin, Montana 59034
Phone: (406) 665-1671
Write or phone for more information.

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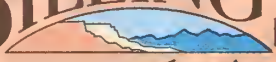
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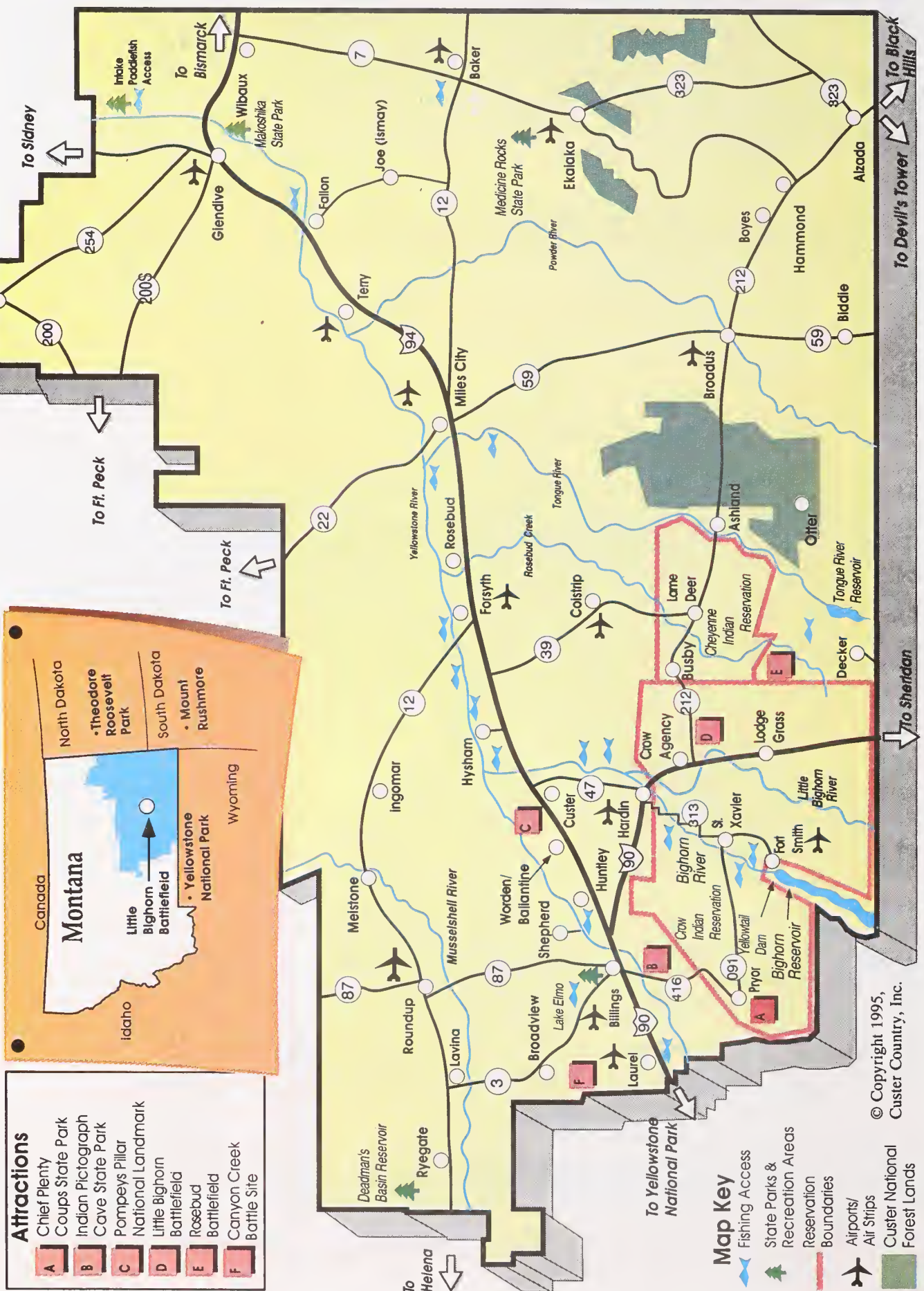
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BILLINGS

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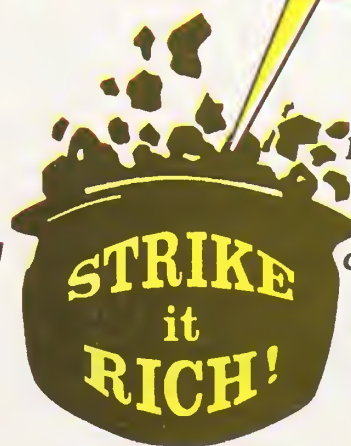
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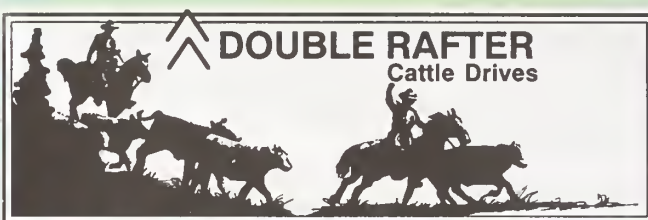
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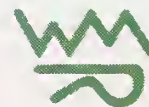
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P.O. Box 159

Wibaux, Montana 59353



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Frank Datta Photo

Put Wibaux at the top of your travel itinerary when you travel to Montana from the east on Interstate 94.

This "Gateway to Montana" community has a State Visitor Center with all the information you will need to complete your plans for a wonderful vacation in Montana. And as a bonus, you will find Wibaux (pronounced wee-bo) to be a friendly, western town with a colorful history and a charming commercial historic district—a great place to set the tone for the rest of your trip.

State Information Center

Wibaux's State Visitor Information Center is housed in a railroad car that was part of the Montana Centennial Train which was on display at the World's Fair in New York City in 1964. In addition to maps, travel brochures and a friendly hostess, the car features a free museum with many early artifacts and some unusual displays, including a man's vertebrae with an arrowhead embedded in the bone.

The Information Center has visitor information for most of the state of

Montana, and visitors who mention the ad on page 12 will receive a free native Montana rock as a souvenir.

Frenchman Starts Cattle Ranch

The town and county were named for Pierre Wibaux, a Frenchman who came to the territory in the late 1800's when he decided his future did not lie in the textile industry operated by his family. He arrived in 1883 and began securing property and cattle even though he had no background in ranching.

His herd of cattle at one time numbered 40,000 head, and they grazed on land he controlled in western North Dakota and eastern Montana.

Among his friends in this era was Teddy Roosevelt. The future President of the United States was a badlands rancher at this time. The Marquis de Mores, another Frenchman, undertook a grandiose—though doomed—plan to process beef in western Dakota. Theodore Roosevelt National Park and the town of Medora, ND, just 30 miles from Wibaux, stand today as reminders of the roles these gentlemen played in history.

Town House Museum Complex

Mr. Wibaux's "town house" has been restored to its original condition and features many antique household furnishings of the homestead days. It is the heart of a museum complex which includes a barbershop, a livery stable, gardens, and a railroad caboose. Free tours of the buildings and garden area, located on east Orgain Avenue, are conducted during the summer months.

Monument of Founder

Pierre Wibaux himself provided funds for a monumental statue in his likeness. It stands on the west edge of the town and overlooks the land he loved so well. The statue faces the direction of his main ranch, known as the W-Bar, located northeast of town.

Historic St. Peter's Church

The old St. Peter's Catholic Church, a beautiful building faced with lava rock and built with funds donated by the Wibaux family, marks its 100th year in 1995. It is just one of a number of buildings included in a free, self-guided walking tour of Wibaux's commercial historic district. Tour brochures may be picked up at the Information Center.

Art and Gardens

Across town on Beaver Street, Pastor and Mrs. Harry Heidt open their Gateway Gallery to visitors free of charge. The gallery houses a private collection of bronze sculptures, Indian art, arrowheads and spear points. Outside, visitors are invited to enjoy flower gardens combined with native rocks.

Enjoy local—mostly handmade—arts and crafts at the Prairie Creative Arts Association's gift shop in the Palace Cafe building at the corner of Wibaux Street and Second Avenue South.

Parks and Recreation

A new public outdoor swimming pool is on west Nolan Avenue. Shade trees and playground equipment are adjacent to the pool. Baseball games between area clubs are a popular summer activity at the field on east Second Avenue South.

Wibaux has several city parks where visitors can enjoy a picnic, take a walk, or smell flower gardens courtesy of the Wibaux Garden Club. The VFW Memorial Park near the Pierre Wibaux



Pierre Wibaux's former town house is now the heart of Wibaux's museum complex.

Wayne Mumford Photo



Wibaux's old St. Peter's Catholic Church, covered with native rocks, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Mike Archdale Photo

statue overlooks the Beaver Valley. The Wibaux city park on the main thoroughfare, Wibaux Street, has shade trees, picnic tables, and new playground equipment. Picnic tables are also available at a new park across from the nursing home at the south end of town.

Hunting, Fishing, Wildlife

It looks like just a small stream, but Beaver Creek, which flows through Wibaux, has produced some big fish, including walleye and northern pike in excess of 10 pounds. Catfish and bullheads also can be caught in the creek, while panfish and trout are found in

many area farm ponds. A public pond with picnic area is located on the edge of the city limits on Highway 7 South.

A blend of badlands and rolling hills offers fine photography or hunting trophies in mule deer, whitetail deer and antelope. Upland game birds also are plentiful in some parts of the county. Deer, wild turkeys, beaver and a wide variety of songbirds are frequently spotted—sometimes right in town!

Activities and Events

Farming and ranching are the backbone of Wibaux's economy, and related activities, such as team ropings, rodeos and county fairs are at the heart of Wibaux's main annual events. You'll be amazed at how youngsters to oldsters and everyone in between participates

in these activities. Come join the fun.

Events in Wibaux in 1995

Fourth of July Celebration...July 1-2
Ice Cream Social at

Pierre Wibaux Museum.....July 2
Youth Rodeo (to age 18) July 8
Wibaux County Fair.....Aug. 25-27
Horse Judging, Exhibits...Aug. 25
Night Show Aug. 26
Livestock Judging Aug. 26
Rodeo Aug. 26
Fair Parade 27
Demolition Derby Aug. 27
Livestock Sale Aug. 27
Wibaux County Nursing Home
20th Anniversary Celebration.....
.....Labor Day Weekend
Famous Annual Turkey Tourney
and Craft Show Nov. 24-26



Wild turkey numbers are growing along Beaver Creek near Wibaux.

Marlene Welliever Photo

SHAMROCK CLUB...the Fun Spot in Wibaux!

- STEAK • SHRIMP • LOBSTER
- SANDWICHES • MUSIC
- LOTTERY TICKETS
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Just say *"Wee bo"*

MARLENE WELLIEVER PHOTO

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- ...and Serving...
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—Take it out or eat it here—

Step back in time...

*Our building, listed on the National Register of
Historic Places, is being restored to its
"Turn of the Century" atmosphere.*

- Old Drug Store Items
- Medical & Dental Equipment
- Paper & Sports Memorabilia
- Montana Books & Guides
- Genie's Kitchen Confections
- A Little of Everything

—coming soon—

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☞ Kitchenettes are available



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Baker, MT 59313

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• Full Menu

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"Best Food You've
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Choppers Into!"

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7:00 A.M. – 3 P.M.

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Baker, Montana 59313



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Matt and Margaret Helfrich

HEISER'S BAR

"We brought the world's largest steer home to Baker."
See this 3,980 lb. steer displayed at the O'Fallon Museum.

Soup & Sandwich Specials Daily

• Sandwich/Salad Bar • Homemade Pizza

"The mostest of the bestest"

• Hamburgers

• Broasted Chicken



Live Poker Nightly

★ **Progressive Poker Machines**

★ **Keno Machines**

BAKER, MONTANA

Come to the.....

O'Fallon Museum

• The Court House Complex • 2nd Street East Baker, Montana



See Steer Montana

Certified Weight: 3,980 lbs.

Open Year round 9-12, & 1-5

(except Mon. & Sat. and the month of Jan.)

No Charge!

778-3265

A Friendly Town On Montana's Border

Enjoy some of the best finds Montana has to offer by including a trip off the beaten path—but not out of the comfort zone!—to Baker. Turn south from Wibaux on Highway 7. If you are coming in from the east, travel on Highway 12. Baker, the Friendly City, offers a relaxed, warm welcome.

What is there to do in Baker? You name it! In the summer take advantage of fine outdoor recreational facilities. In Baker you can play golf, tennis, softball, or pitch horseshoes. All of these activities are within walking distance of each other.

Water Sports

You can swim, or go boating and water skiing at Baker Lake and have a picnic in one of the beautiful city parks. Fishermen will be sure to have a fish story or two to take home, after casting a line in Baker Lake or in nearby Sandstone Reservoir, where pike, crappie, perch and walleye can be caught. No matter what sport you like, you'll find it in Baker.

Hunting

Hunters often go home with huge trophies from the healthy, carefully managed wild game population in the Fallon County habitat. You can hunt deer, antelope, pheasants, wild turkeys, or rabbits throughout the area. And you'll always be able to find someone to give you tips on the best places for success. Many of the farmers and ranchers are glad to give permission when you ask. (Please be sure to ask!) Many parcels of land around Baker are part of the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Block Management Program that is designed to help hunters gain access to good hunting lands. The hunting page of this guide explains the program in more detail.

Winter Sports

Winter sports are no more limited than the snow in the Friendly City. There are lots of wide open spaces for cross country skiing or snowmobiling. Or go ice skating at the lighted outdoor rink. Ice fishing lures plenty of fishermen to augered holes, and lots of local folks are willing to share their "secrets" about how to land the big one.



Medicine Rocks State Park, located between Baker and Ekalaka, offers an opportunity to explore unusual rock formations. There are picnic facilities at the park. Native Americans gave the area its name. Here they found "good medicine."

Travel Montana Photo



Baker

County Museum

If you let your mind wander, you can imagine how the Indians lived, or what hardships the first explorers, trappers, or settlers must have faced. The O'Fallon Historical Museum in Baker will fill in the details that your imagination may have left out. Volunteers will give you directions to one of the many teepee rings in the area, or point out to you the wagon ruts left by some of the original wagon trains that came through Montana.

Recreation Center

Here is another secret. In the heart of Baker is one of the finest indoor recreation facilities in the state. You can swim in the indoor heated pool, play racquetball or wallyball, or use the weight room at the Baker Recreation Center, adjacent to the high school. It's open year-round.

Fallon Medical Complex

Oh, and if you over-do it a bit, health

care is available at the Fallon Medical Complex, which includes a 12-bed hospital, and community clinic.

Oil

Oil is big business in the Baker area. Productive wells can be seen along the highway. Benefits of the mineral wealth are evident in the recreation complexes and community facilities in the town, many of which are the result of a partnership between private enterprise and government agencies.

Nearby Activities

There are lots of relaxing activities to enjoy in and around Baker, too. Enjoy the local museum and drive south to see Medicine Rocks State Park. (There is more information on this park on page 40.) Travel west from town, and you will find a fine new trap shooting and target range. Tournament season for the range is usually from May to October, but you can use it on your own any time.



Beautiful Scenery

Oil is big business in the Baker area. Productive wells can be seen along the highway. Benefits of the mineral wealth are evident in the recreation complexes and community facilities in the town, many of which are the result of a partnership between private enterprise and government agencies'

Photo courtesy of Baker Chamber of Commerce

No matter which direction you look in Baker, you'll see stretches of scenery painted with golden fields and sandstone, arched horizon to horizon with a big blue sky that is most often piled full of mile-deep, pillowy clouds. In fact, to really get a view of the surrounding area, fly into Baker. Because of the oil activity in the area, the fine airport complex is cleared to land most aircraft. Much of the land is virtually unchanged from thousands of years ago. Wildlife is part of the landscape

scenes. You may even see the bighorn sheep herd that ranges between Baker and Miles City.

County Fair

The Fallon County Fair is August 17-20. Carnival rides, agricultural and business exhibits and rodeo are part of the fun. There is lots of food to sample and a night show, featuring famous entertainment.

Bronco Days

Activities in Baker begin with the Bronco Days Rodeo in March. Held indoors, at a fine arena, the event is action-packed with cowboys and cowgirls competing for points that lead the best on broncs to the national level.

Fourth of July

Baker's 4th of July celebration includes everything from beach volleyball tournaments, to pie-eating contests, sack races, and horseshoe pitching exhibitions.

Fall Festival and Street Dance

Check with the Baker Chamber of Commerce for the dates of the Fall Festival and Street Dance. The event includes exhibits and entertainment throughout the day, followed by a dance on Baker's Main Street, born of good old-fashioned country music.

Free Camping

Campers and RV travelers can park free overnight at the city RV park, complete with sewage disposal facilities. Or you can pitch a tent for the night at Steve McClain Memorial Park, which

has picnic tables, bathroom facilities, and barbecues. Excellent motel accommodations are available at reasonable rates, and restaurants please both palate and pocketbook.

Warm Welcome

Residents say, "Whether your interest is sports or fossil hunting, or you just want to strike up a game of whist at the Senior Citizen's Center, you'll like

ROY'S MOTEL & Campground

For Reservations Only
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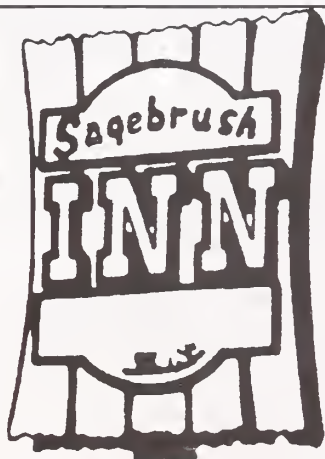
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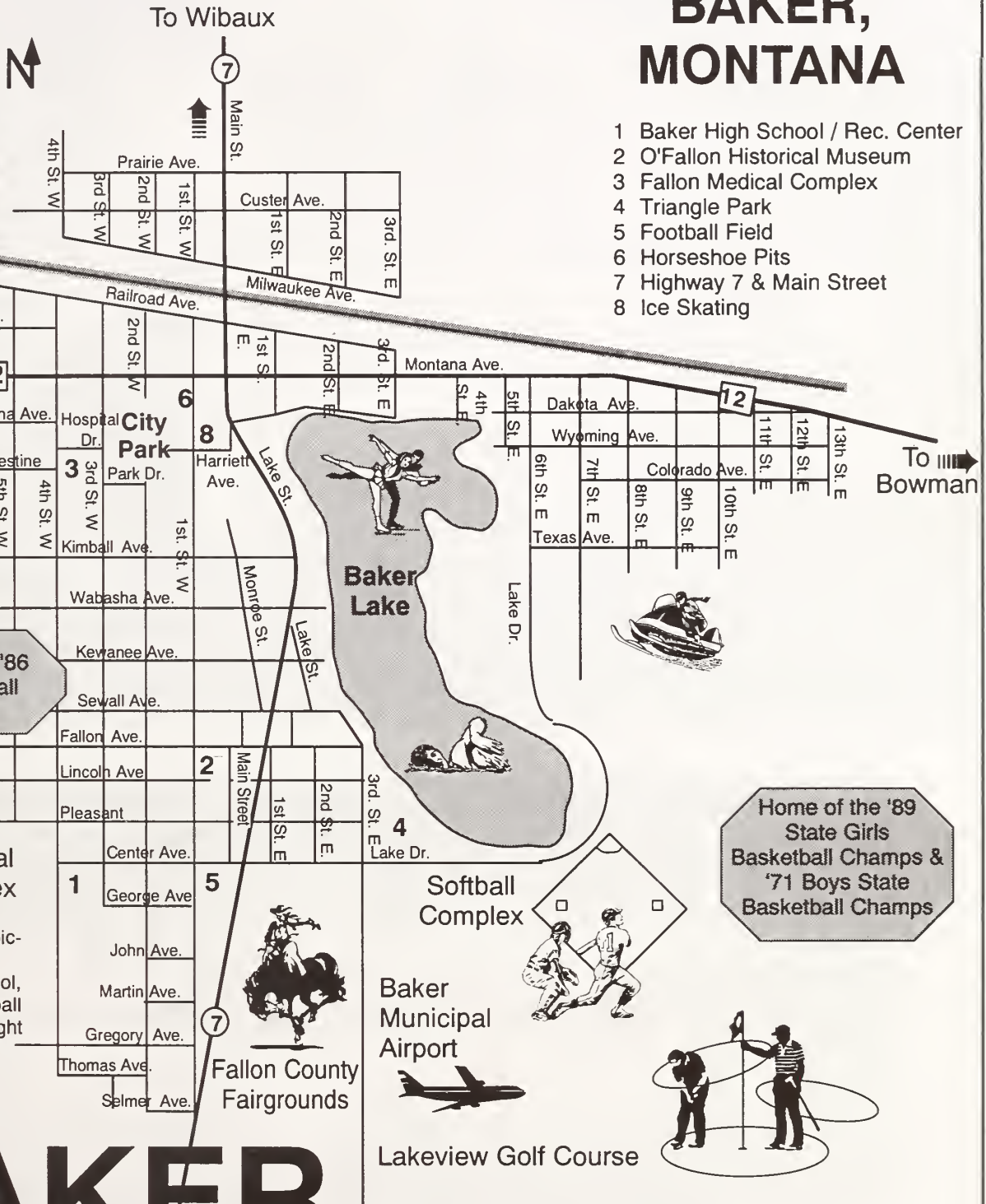
Spend a night, not a fortune

- Clean, comfortable rooms
- New Touch-Tone phones with direct dialing
- Restaurants adjacent to motel
- Laundromat
- Cable T.V. and HBO
- Queen size beds
- Ample truck parking
- Winter plug-ins
- Guest controlled heat and air conditioning



WELCOME TO BAKER, MONTANA

- 1 Baker High School / Rec. Center
- 2 O'Fallon Historical Museum
- 3 Fallon Medical Complex
- 4 Triangle Park
- 5 Football Field
- 6 Horseshoe Pits
- 7 Highway 7 & Main Street
- 8 Ice Skating



Home of the '86
State Football
Champs

Recreational
Complex

Olympic-
size
Swimming Pool,
Three Racquetball
Courts and Weight
Lifting Room

BAKER MONTANA

Baker Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 849

Baker, MT 59313

↓ To Ekalaka
and Medicine Rocks State Park

Home of the '89
State Girls
Basketball Champs &
'71 Boys State
Basketball Champs

Softball
Complex

Baker
Municipal
Airport

Lakeview Golf Course

Fallon County
Fairgrounds



When you come to Baker be sure to stop at the O'Fallon Historical Museum. These ladies will greet you and invite you to browse through unique collections of the past. See the fine selection of mannequins in antique clothing.

Gloria Wester Photo

Baker, Montana, the Friendly City. Our business people are eager to serve you, and our citizens are always willing to do their best to make you feel t'home."

Baker events in 1995

Besides the Fallon County Fair on August 17-20 in 1995, the town sponsors events, such as a Health Fair in March, and a Talent Show in July. Fall events include a Fall Festival, Customer Appreciation Day and a Calcutta. Winter is brightened by a Bull-R-Ama, a Craft Bazaar, Santa Day, the Jaycee Dinner for Senior Citizens, and a Community Concert. Contact the Baker Chamber for specific dates of these events.

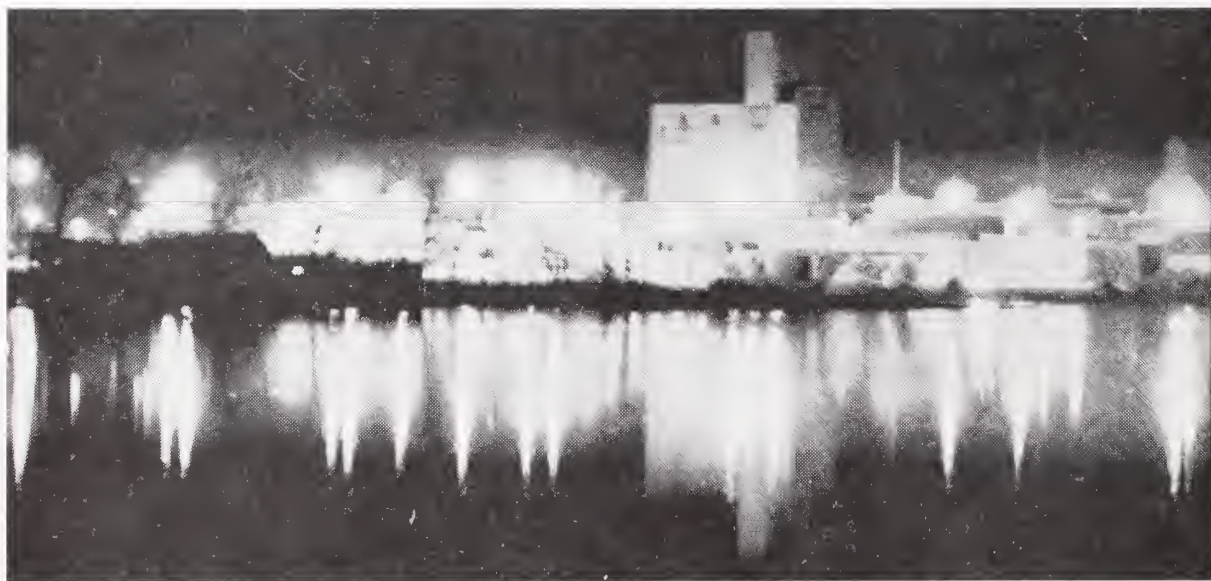
These businesses and individuals help sponsor ads in the Custer Country Vacation Guide:

Herbst Insurance Agency
Bank of Baker
Lakeview Country Club



Bighorn sheep can be seen in the hills between Baker and Miles City. Montana's Block Management hunting program helps hunters gain access to the sheep habitat.

Jim Anderson Photo



A reflection of quiet peace. This photo shows Baker, Montana bordered by Baker Lake. When the sun comes up, it is a popular spot for fishing, swimming, boating, water skiing, and — in winter — ice skating and snowmobiling.

Julie McLean Photo



The whole town of Ismay (Joe), Montana, turned out at a Kansas City Chiefs football game to cheer for the namesake they have adopted for their community—Joe Montana. The famous quarterback for whom they have renamed their town poses here with his fans.



Joe!

Ismay Changes Its Name In Recognition Of NFL Quarterback

In May of 1993, the town of Ismay, MT was contacted by a radio station in Kansas City, MO. The station had a special request for the town to consider—changing the name of the town to Joe, Montana for the duration of the football season.

The radio station promoters felt that this was a great way to honor their newly signed Kansas City Chiefs quarterback, Joe Montana, the man.

Ismay, population 22, agreed.

On July 3, 1993, it was official.

Ismay was Joe.

In celebration, the town organized a

ranch rodeo, a parade, and a night show for July 3. They drew over 2,000 spectators. They hoped to raise a couple thousand dollars to cover the annual operating costs of their volunteer fire department.

The mayor, who earns \$4 a month for his mayoral duties, has proudly reported that by February of 1994, the town had netted nearly \$70,000.

Ismay will hold Joe Montana (or Joe, Montana) Days again in 1995 on July 1-2. They will repeat the 1993 activities, add a dance and clear the streets for the arrival of a cattle drive and wagon train arriving in Joe in conjunction with the celebration.

Caps, t-shirts, and other Joe, Montana souvenirs may be purchased by calling 1-800-HELP JOE.

Everyone's welcome at the 1995 celebration, says the mayor, but he advises that lodging reservations should be made in Miles City or Baker. Joe has no hotels, but pitched camps are accommodated.



Montana CowBelles perpetuate the art of cooking chuckwagon style.

Robert Black Photo



Taco Pie

This recipe won the annual Montana Beef Cook-Off competition. The culinary artist is Jenny Redland, a ninth grade student at Hysham Schools, Hysham, MT.

1 lb. Beef Hamburger
1/3 cup chopped olives
1/2 cup water
1 package taco mix
1/3 cup whole kernel corn

Then prepare the following:
1 package crescent rolls
1 cup sour cream
2 cups crushed corn chips
1 cup shredded cheese

Brown the Beef Hamburger and simmer the first 5 ingredients for 5 minutes

Put crescent rolls in 9"x9" pan for crust. Sprinkle half of the crushed corn chips on crust. Put Beef Hamburger mixture on top. Next, spread sour cream over mixture and sprinkle cheese on top. Arrange other half of corn chips over top. Bake at 375 degrees 25-35 minutes. Other possible ingredients: chili powder, green peppers or salsa.

Hamburger Sausage Logs

This recipe was prepared in front of television cameras by Luella Fox of Hardin, MT. The segment was aired on the program, The Big Sky Journal, produced by King Videocable of California.

4 1/2 lbs. Beef Hamburger
1/4 cup Tender Quick
2 tsp. crushed peppercorns
2 tsp. garlic salt
2 tbsp. Liquid Smoke

First Day: Mix Beef Hamburger and Tender Quick. Put mixture in refrigerator

Second Day: Mix remaining ingredients into Beef Hamburger mixture and roll into rolls 2 1/2 inches in diameter. Bake on broiler pan at 200 degrees F. for 4 hours, turning to new position every hour.

A CowBelle Welcome

"CowBelles" and "Cattlemen" organizations promote the use of beef products by fostering understanding of the nutritional value of beef, by providing good up-to-date recipes, and by supporting projects and activities of local 4-H Clubs.

For free recipes, write to Big Horn County CowBelles, Ethel Herbel, Route #1, Box 1074, Hardin, MT 59034.

Beef

A taste that brings to mind the Old Wild West,
Where children were raised to always do their best.

To tell right from wrong, stand firm in their beliefs,
And they grew up strong and healthy...eating American Beef.

Nature's source of iron and protein, through and through,
Easily digestible, and quite delicious, too. It's versatile and wholesome, but just to keep it brief,
It's natural nutrition...that great American Beef!

Gina Stevens
Spear-O Ranch
Busby, Montana



There is an art to cooking pitchfork fondue style! The hot, tender steaks are a favorite at cookouts throughout the West!

Milt Wester Photo



Dinosaur Country

Carter County Offers A Glimpse Into Pre-History

Ekalaka

Ekalaka is the county seat of Carter County, population 637.

Though small, the community meets the needs of the traveler with two motels, several restaurants, grocery stores, service stations, a collection of Main Street businesses, and a town swimming pool.

Entertainment is simple here. There is no pressure to rush through freeways to huge stadiums. No need to bring your tux. And you won't need to tip the maitre de for the best table.

There's lots of room, lots of time, and lots of space. Entertainment comes in measures of peace and quiet.

Days of '85 Fair and Rodeo

Not that Ekalakans don't know how to have a good time and whoop it up, occasionally...in between the hard days of work that good farming, ranching and related businesses require.

The Carter County Days of '85 (1885) Fair and Rodeo Aug. 11-13 is highlighted by horse shows, rodeos, fair exhibits and a parade plus an evening dance. The District 7 Fiddlers traditionally compete on Sunday afternoon.

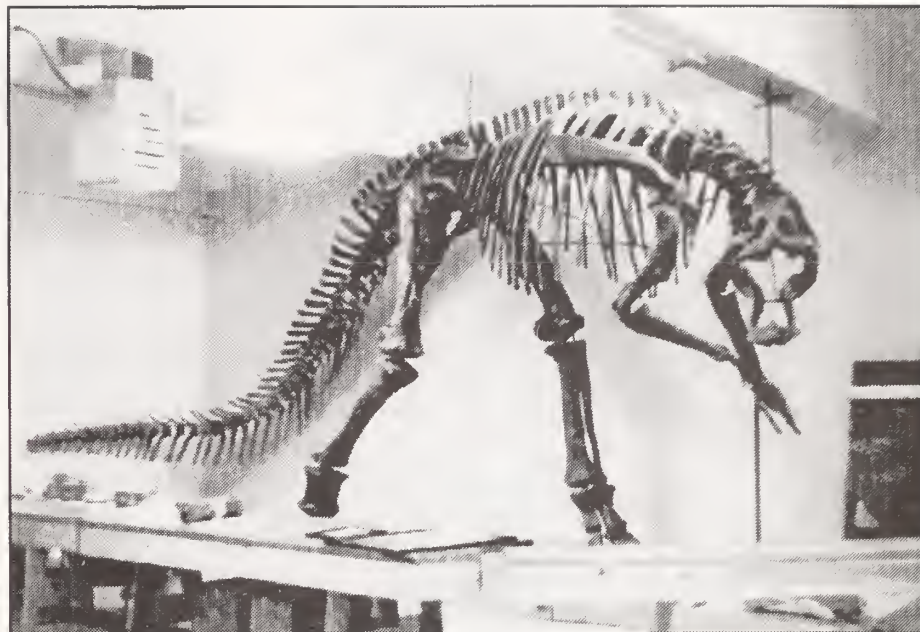
During the school year visitors are invited to enjoy sports contests and musical presentations at Carter County High School in Ekalaka.

Meadowlark Welcomes Spring

The Meadowlark Club of Ekalaka celebrates the arrival of the state bird, the mountain meadowlark, with spring activities. In the fall, there is a farewell to the meadowlark event.

Essential Services

The airport, located on the east edge



Located on Ekalaka's Main Street, the Carter County Museum houses fossil remains of dinosaurs that roamed the country 65 million years ago. The most complete skeleton is this Anatosaurus, or duck-billed dinosaur. Other museum displays include artifacts used by area residents. The museum is open 1-4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.

Gloria Wester Photo

of Ekalaka, offers aerial travelers a 3,500 ft. lighted, paved runway, tie downs and hangars.

The Dahl Memorial Clinic, Hospital, Pharmacy, and Nursing Home provides medical and pharmaceutical services to residents and guests to the community.

Hammond, Boyes

Heading west from Alzada on U.S. Highway 212 will take the traveler to the communities of Hammond and Boyes. The Old West Trading Post in Boyes combines a service station, store and museum-quality display of restored covered wagons, ranch wagons, saddles and artifacts collected over the last 20 years by proprietor "Slug" Mills.

Hunting and Fishing

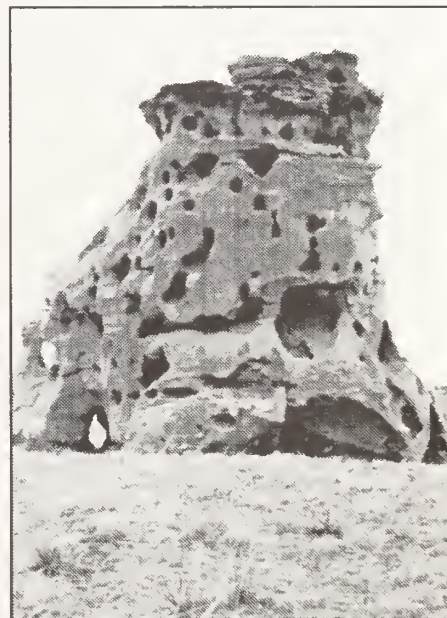
Though sheep and cattle production are the primary industries of Carter County, the area produces mule deer, whitetail deer, pronghorn antelope, grouse, sage hens, pheasants, trout, bass and bluegill. Wildlife production in Carter County has long enticed sportsmen to the southeastern corner of the state.

1995 in Carter County

Fireworks Display at Belltower;
15 miles south of Ekalaka July 4
Carter County Wagon Train
(406) 775-6273 July 2-3-4
Days of '85 Fair, Rodeo, Working Dog
Show, and Parade.....August 11-12-13

Custer National Forest

Chalk Buttes, Long Pines, and Ekalaka Hills near Ekalaka, are Custer National Forest lands that provide excellent hunting for mule deer, white-tail deer, and wild turkeys. The Long Pines is noted for the Capitol Rock National Natural Landmark. This area also is known for having a very high density of nesting raptors.



Wind and water began to sculpt this formation at Medicine Rocks State Park near Ekalaka at the time dinosaurs ruled the earth.

Donna Delp Photo

HITCH YOUR VACATION TO ADVENTURE!



Powder River Wagon Trains & Cattle Drives

Box 676
Broadus
Montana, 59317

DO IT LIKE YOUR ANCESTORS DID IT!

Take a scenic, historic journey via horse and wagon, trailing cattle through vast, natural lands. Enjoy a western event and county fair at the end of the trail.

- You'll get to do chores, care for the gentle horses, & trail cattle.
- You'll sleep in tents or under the stars and
- You'll be fed plenty of wholesome chuck-wagon meals
- You'll shower at camp—just a little pampering.



WAGONS ROLL: August 6-11, 1995
August 13-18, 1995

Deposit required—one-third down
For more information, call the professionals:
Tracy Fruit (406) 436-2350
Della Greslin 1 (800) 982-0710
Jeanne Portwine (406) 436-2404

Montana Ranch Tours & Cattle Drives

P.O. Box 128 ● Boyes, MT 59316

Ranch Action and Adventure in Powder River County



- ★ Gentle Horses ★ Top Quality Wranglers
- ★ Restored Wagons ★ Scenic Views
- ★ Authentic Corrals ★ Cowboy Teepee Tents
- ★ Nightly Cowboy Entertainment
- ★ Dancing to Western Music ★ Campfires
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- ★ Showers & Restroom Facilities
- ★ Learn To Rope ★ Trail Cattle



1995 Vacation Dates

May 20 – 25

June 10 – 15 (Adults only)

July 8 – 13

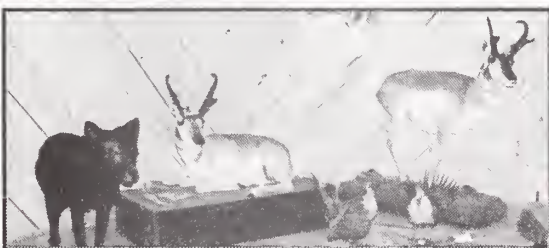
Sept. 9 – 14

Oct. 7 – 12

Flexible for 2 or 3 Day Vacations

For Information or Reservations,
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Jack (Slug) Mills (406) 427-5317
FAX: (406) 427-5313 1-800-492-8835



"Free" Wildlife Museum

POWDER RIVER TAXIDERMY & Co.

- ★ Mounts & Horns for Sale
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- ★ Black Hills Gold
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- ★ Hunting Supplies
- ★ Fishing Tackle
- ★ Local Artwork

- ★ Unique Gifts
- ★ Over 115 North American Specimens on Display

Open 9-5 Mon. – Sat.
Extended Summer Hours
Open Sundays During Summer & Hunting Season

Hwy 212
Box 678CC
Broadus, MT 59317
(406) 436-2538





Highway 212 Gateway

Broadus... 'Powder River, Let 'er Buck!'

Broadus, Montana, "Gateway and Crossroads" of Southeastern Montana, is located just west of the famous Powder River, which was heard of world-wide from the American soldiers' yell of "Powder River, Let 'er Buck." The Powder River has been described as "a mile wide and an inch deep, too wet to plow and too thick to drink."

County Historical Museum

The Powder River Historical Museum in Broadus is an attraction that will interest the whole family, as well as history buffs. Ladies wearing Centennial dress can sometimes be found greeting visitors at the museum during the summer. Of special interest is the buggy used by Colonel Biddle at least 100 years ago and designed to ford the deeper streams in the area. Among other things, you'll see antique cars and a wonderful collection of pioneer pictures. Housed behind the museum itself is the original county jail, reminiscent of outlaws and rustlers. The jail was used for 60 years before being replaced. There is no charge for enjoying this view of the past.

The museum also houses one of the nation's greatest collections of sea shells, minerals and Indian artifacts. This private collection, known as Mac's Museum, was put together by local pioneer, Mac McCurdy.

Activities

Powder River Taxidermy & Co. features a large unique collection of wildlife mounts. Taxidermy work is done on location and may be observed in progress.

Broadus challenges golfers to enjoy the 9-hole grass greens golf course. It offers a putting green, driving range, rental carts and clubs. Or enjoy the view of the course from the clubhouse.



Southeastern Montana shows bowhunters scenes some folks only see in their dreams. If, on a day afield, trophies are few, a Montana sunset is reward enough.

Powder River Outfitters Photo

Take time to stretch your legs and let the kids run. The city park on the edge of town has shade, picnic tables, playground equipment, and lighted tennis courts. A huge divided gazebo provides weather protection for picnics.

Join the Cattle Drive

You'll be able to say, "I did it all!" when you join the Powder River Wagon Train and Cattle Drive, August 6-11 or 13-18, 1995. You will have a

horse of your own to ride and care for, or you can join the train by claiming a seat on a wagon. You can stand beside seasoned cowboys and cowgirls and lend a hand pitching camp, bedding down the herd for the night, and getting the wagons rolling in the morning.

You'll learn to trail cattle on a real-life cattle drive experience. You'll work up an appetite for cowboy coffee, eggs and hotcakes at the chuck wagon. And



Tales of the trails are told and retold by the lucky people who sign up for cattle drive adventures. Broadus will host the drives August 6-11 and 13-18 in 1995.

E.M. Howard Photo

nothing beats the thick steaks, baked beans and hot biscuits served up in the wide open spaces. Evening campfires are for singing, spinning yarns, and making friends. To join up, dial these area code (406) phone numbers: 427-5317, 427-5343, or 436-2350.

1995 Events in Broadus

May: Ranch Tours.....20-25
 Baxter Black Speech 30
 June: Ranch Tours (Adults Only).10-15
 Powder River Congregational Church
 75th Anniversary 11
 Guitar, Fiddle, Banjo Jamboree &
 Picnic, Cottonwood Park 18
 Little Levi Rodeo 24
 (No Contestants over 12)
 July: Freedom Fun Runs 4

Ranch Rodeo 4
 Ranch Tours 8-13
 August: Black Powder Shoot 5-6
 Crazy Days 6
 Cattle Drive.....6-11 and 13-18
 Powder River County Fair.....17-19
 September: Quarterhorse Fertility
 and Horse Sale.....3
 Ranch Tours 9-14
 Hog Heaven Days, Boyes.....30
 October: Ranch Tours 7-12
 November: Country Store 18
 December: Christmas Stroll 4
 All Summer
 Roping, Barrel Racing every Tuesday
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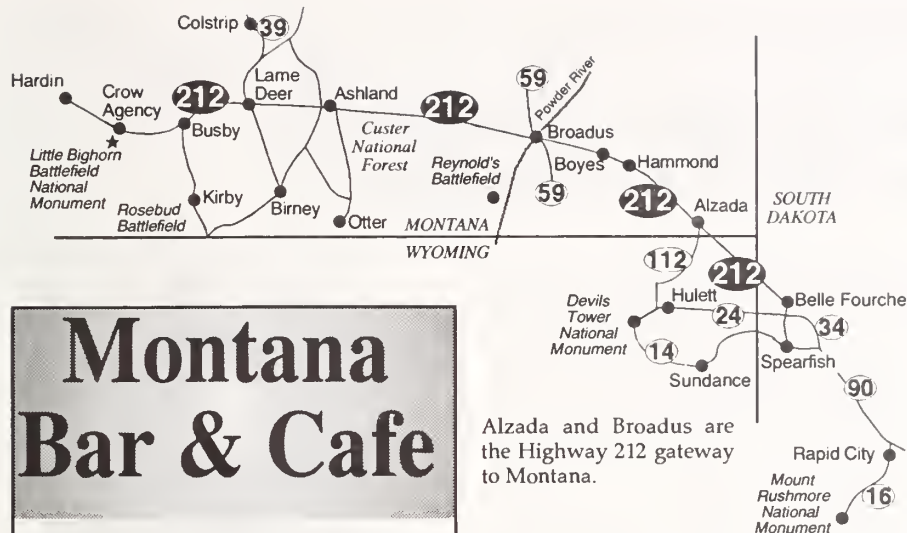
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Alzada and Broadus are the Highway 212 gateway to Montana.

These businesses and individuals support tourism in the Broadus area of Custer Country also:

David Gardner, CPA
Powder River Bank
Broadus Insurance Services, Inc.

Powderville

Powderville, north of Broadus, was originally known as Elkhorn Crossing of the old Deadwood Stage. Still visible is the route the wagons took in fording the river here.

A point of interest maintained by the Powder River County Historical Society is Boot Hill Cemetery, west of the present Powderville Post Office, which was established in 1872.

Alzada

Alzada is on the banks of the Little Missouri River in the southeastern corner of Montana.

The area was settled in the late 1870s

by pioneers who wanted to raise cattle.

A telegraph line linked a saloon and a small general store established in 1877 to the distant world. The town was originally named Stoneville for the 1880 postmaster, Lewis Stone. In 1885 the name was changed to Alzada. It was a stage stop between Deadwood, SD and Miles City, MT.

In Alzada's early days, the cattle rustler and the horse thief operated at will, much to the hardship and expense of the ranchers. The most notorious and boldest were the Exelby Gang. Beginning their "operations" in 1877, the gang rustled for several years. Eventually, a series of events including rustling, arrests, an attempted rescue, and exchanges of gunfire culminated in the "1884 Shootout at Stoneville" and the ultimate breakup of the Exelby Gang.

The trip to Alzada is worth the miles along Highway 212 to hear the details of the shootout and other historic events.



You will see this "airplane" rock along Highway 212 east of Broadus.

Donna Delp Photo

Next to Swimming Pool, 2 Little League Softball Fields, and Golf Course. Tourist & Rodeo Information



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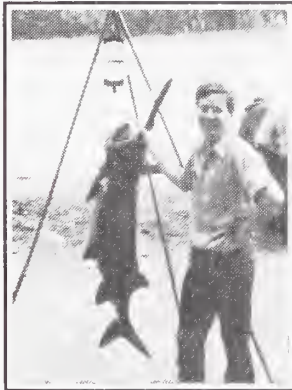
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- ★ Paddlefishing May 15 – June 30
- ★ Heartland of Montana Moss Agate Territory
- ★ Frontier Gateway Museum
- ★ The Gallery (Art Displays)
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Makoshika State Park



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Located at the Jordan Hotel*





Badlands City

Glendive!

*Montana's City Near The
Badlands Has Recreation
And Sightseeing For Everyone*

A sign leading into Glendive says "Superhost." And the people of Glendive make sure it lives up to the title. Now, a super host would have lots of fun things to do, lots of good places to eat, and would be congenial about inviting you to join in on all the fun to be had. Well, that's Glendive.

In Glendive and throughout Dawson County you can go fishing. You can catch a rodeo sometimes. There are opportunities for golfing, swimming, agate hunting, boating and camping.

Big game hunters can bag deer and antelope, and the area is also known for its excellent game bird hunting. For fishermen, the catch ranges from pre-historic paddlefish, snapping turtles and catfish, to renowned game fish such as walleye.

The summer months bring rodeo action, from local family team roping to college and professional rodeo. Glendive even boasts its own college rodeo team—the Cowboys and Cowgirls at Dawson Community College on the outskirts of Glendive.

Frontier Gateway Museum

Enjoy stepping into the past when you visit the Frontier Gateway Museum. Featured are dinosaur fossils, Indian artifacts, farm machinery, blacksmith tools, and even a suit of armor. One of the most popular exhibits is "Merrill West," a walkway of replicas of businesses which lined Glendive's business district in the late 1800's.

On the museum grounds you'll find a restored sheep wagon, other wagons and carriages, a rural school house, log



Dr. Mike Wheeler of Laurel, MT, caught this 84 pound paddlefish at Intake Recreation Area near Glendive.

Linda Wheeler Photo

cabin, windmill pump, smithy shop and more.

The museum is located off I-94 Exit 215, and east on the Belle Prairie Frontage Road, and is open from the end of May through mid-September. Admission is free.

History Books Available

The Tree Branches Genealogy Club of Glendive has published the book, "Our Times, Our Lives," which is a history of Dawson County families and communities. The book contains more

than 1,000 pages, including a list of births, marriages, lists of homestead filings, and personal stories of over 1,200 area families. It is available at the Chamber of Commerce for \$25.

Eastern Montana Veterans' Home

An 80-bed facility is under construction and will open for occupancy in 1995.

An Invitation to Places and Fun

Glendive, as a Superhost town, dedicated to making visitors feel welcome and to answering their questions about

local attractions and events, invites you to see the following sites.

Makoshika State Park: intriguing, rugged badlands, located on the outskirts of Glendive, encompass 8,123 acres. A \$3 day use fee is charged at the park. A new visitor center, complete with a triceratops dinosaur skeleton found near Makoshika, was dedicated in 1994.

Montana Moss Agates: found in creek bottoms, gravel beds, and along banks of the Yellowstone River running through Glendive. No charge. Directions given at chamber or Holiday Lodge.

Paddlefishing for the prehistoric non-skeletal fish: near Intake, 17 miles north of Glendive, average weight to 120 pounds. Montana fishing license and a special tag are needed.

Frontier Gateway Museum: antiques of the early-day homesteaders and cattlemen of the area. Fossils and Indian artifacts. Free.

The Gallery: works of artists from the Glendive area, 110 West Towne Street. Free.

Cottonwood Country Club: fantastic nine-hole course. Take Sidney Highway #16 North, then turn at Highland Park Rd. and watch for golf course sign. Visitors welcome, urged to call (406) 365-8797 for tee-times.

Jaycee West Park: tennis courts, picnic area, basketball, horseshoes, restrooms, and RV dump station. Next to Yellowstone River on Towne Street.

Lloyd Square Park: picnic grounds, heated pool with separate diving and wading areas, tennis courts, horseshoes, basketball, restrooms, playground area. In center of city. Free.

Self-guided walking tour of Glendive's **Downtown Historic District:** many buildings listed in National Register of Historic places. Guide brochures available at Chamber of Commerce, 200 N. Merrill, located in the heart of downtown Glendive.

Glendive Visitors Guide: published by local newspaper, available through chamber. Write Glendive Chamber, Box 930, Glendive, MT 59330, or pick one up in Glendive.

Glendive Public Library: extensive collection of Montana books and authors, local histories, local newspapers back to 1882. 200 S. Kendrick. Call (406) 365-3633.

Dawson Community College

Serving the educational needs of eastern Montana, Dawson Community College in Glendive is a comprehensive

two-year college offering education at all levels and is a focal point in the community for the arts and services as well as education.

Elderhostels

Thousands of senior citizens all over the world combine travel with educational experiences by participating in Elderhostels. Each June, Dawson Community College sponsors an Elderhostel, which features living in college dormitories, listening to lectures, and taking field trips, hikes and going on agate hunting expeditions.

Attention, Rock Hounds!

Rock hounds will enjoy the area—choice Montana agates can be found, as well as fossil remains of prehistoric creatures and Indian artifacts.

The Yellowstone River in eastern Montana is renowned worldwide for the quality and abundance of plume and moss agates found on its shores.

The Chamber of Commerce has an interesting display of agates and will be able to supply you with the names of several local agate dealers and retailers. Guided rockhoulder boat tours are available.

Lewis and Clark Trail

In 1804, the Lewis and Clark Expedition began from St. Louis, heading up the Missouri River and continued on to the west coast. Clark and party stopped at various points along the Yellowstone River to camp, make canoes and record their historic journey. The Lewis and Clark Trail markers point out the route.

A sign marks a spot in Glendive near where members of the expedition made dugout canoes out of cottonwoods.

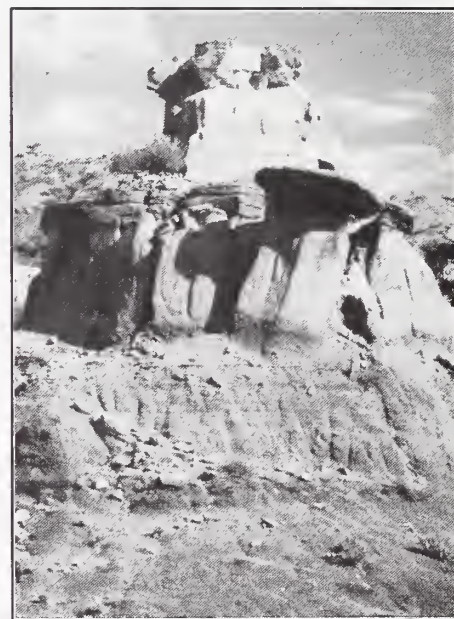
1995 Events in Glendive

May: Annual Buzzard Day at
Makoshika State Park..... 6
Paddlefish Season.
Yellowstone Intake
Diversion Dam, 17 mi.
N. of Glendive. May 15-June 30
June: Badlands Drifters Car Club's
Sixth Annual Car Show 23-24
July: Independence Day Celebration . . 4
Summer Festival 21-22
August: Dawson County
Fair and Rodeo. 9-13
Theater in the Park.
Makoshika State Park 18-19

Richey

Richey, Montana, north of Glendive, lies in the center of a productive area. This is cattle and sheep country, with wheat, oats and barley being the main farm crops. A lively little friendly town, Richey has a variety of businesses to serve the visitor, a new post office and a museum where you can check out the history of the area.

The Richey Historical Museum has over 5,000 articles of historic interest, including a Model A mail car, a blacksmith shop, pioneer kitchen, school and church memorabilia, and newspaper files from 1916 to 1948. Special articles



Located on the southeastern edge of Glendive is Makoshika State Park. The name is Sioux and means bad earth or bad lands. Makoshika is a special place where the evolution of the planet earth and its plant and animal life—for nearly 80 million years—can be read. Among the carved rock formations are the fossilized remains of plants and animals from the age of reptiles. Visible here is evidence of the first mammals, the great ice age, primitive tribes, and the Indian culture.

of clothing on display are wedding dresses, World War I and II uniforms, and coats made of buffalo hide, horsehide, raccoon and muskrat. There are washboards and wheelchairs, spinning wheels and musical instruments. Books containing pictures and stories of local pioneers, veterans and churches are on display.

Two fun events are the Richey High School Rodeo, May 14, 1995 and the Annual Richey Rodeo, July 16, 1995.

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Prehistoric Gamefish

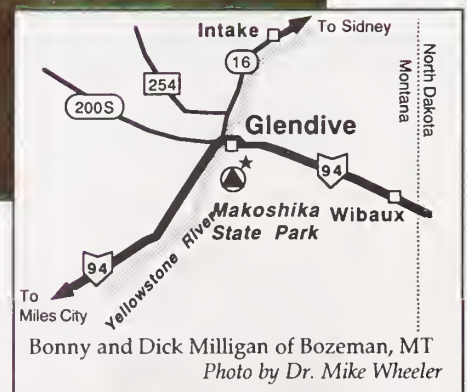


Paddlefish . . .

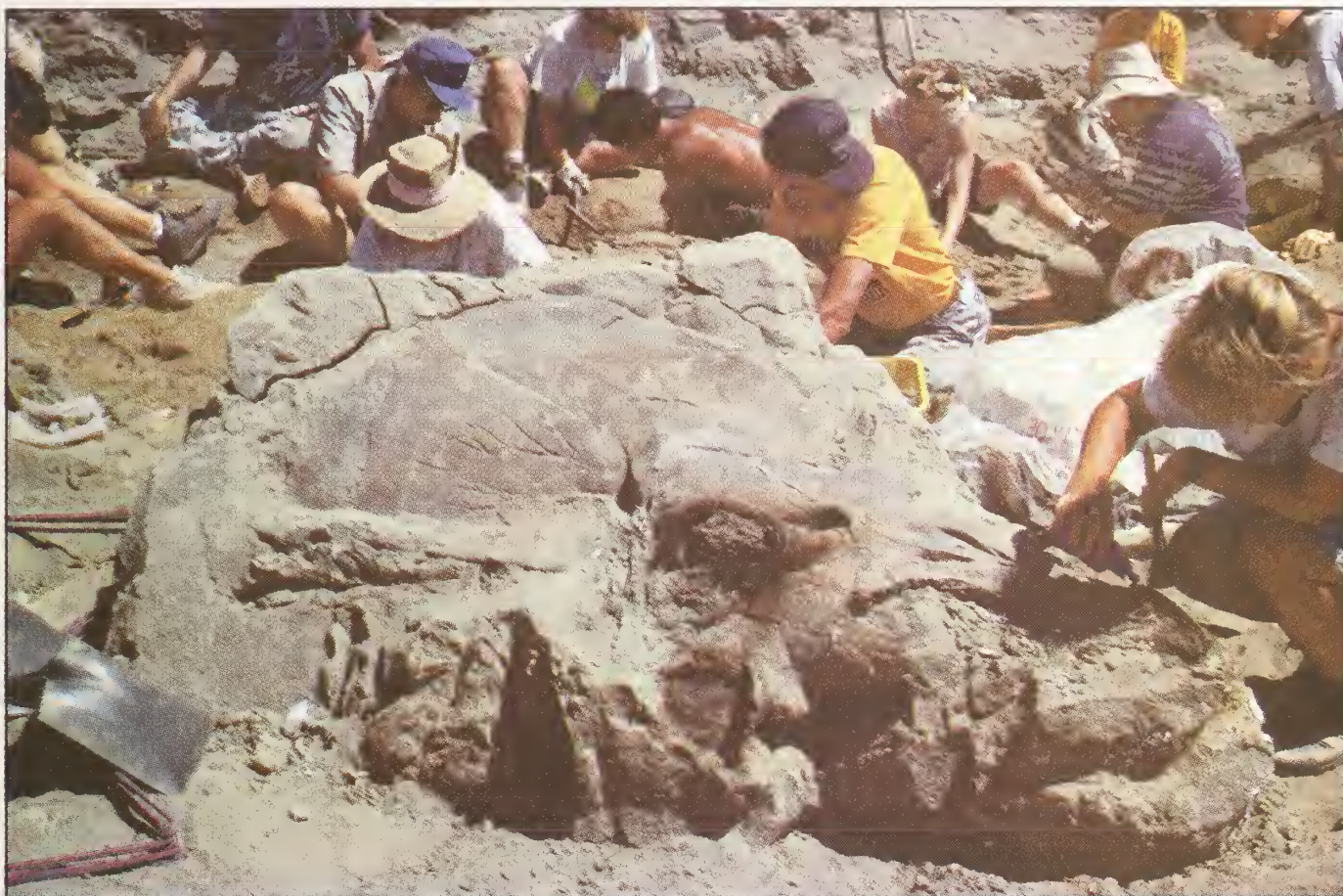
The Yellowstone Intake Diversion Dam, 17 miles north of Glendive, MT, has become the "Paddlefishing and Caviar Capital." From May 15 through June 30, paddlefish run in these murky, roily waters of the Yellowstone River. To fish, besides your regular license, you need a paddlefish tag (this is for a limit of one fish, and costs \$5 for residents

and \$15 for nonresidents); and heavy duty tackle—6/0 to 10/0 treble hooks, 40-80# test line, a heavy surf rod 8-12 ft., a heavy duty salt water spinning reel or star-drag reel, and 4-6 oz. weights. Adult paddlefish may weigh from 40-100 pounds and are very good to eat.

Since 1990, paddlefish roe has been collected by the Glendive Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture. The caviar is processed in Glendive and shipped to caviar buyers where it finds its way



to exclusive restaurants and cruise line diners. Proceeds are used for research and improvement of fishing access sites by FW&P. Other profits have benefited historical, cultural and recreational projects in the Custer Country region.



Digging crews carefully moved 400 yards of soil to expose and remove the triceratops skull and body parts that were transported to the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, MT, for preservation. The skeleton is on display at the new Makoshika State Park Visitor Center in Glendive.

Mike Sullivan Photo

Digging Up The Past

By John Little

During August of 1990, the Milwaukee Public Museum conducted a surface study to determine what caused the demise of the dinosaur in the Hell Creek formation near Makoshika State Park in Glendive.

Little did those participating in the study know that what they were about to uncover would set the stage for a significant local event as well as provide an attraction that will endure for years to come.

One of the Milwaukee Public Museums' volunteers, Irv Ladish, was taking a break and nearly sat on what looked like, and later proved to be, a triceratops dinosaur's brow tine. Ladish immediately informed Diane Gabriel, a paleontologist with the

Milwaukee Public Museum, who determined that it was possibly the horn of a triceratops. After flagging the spot, all present proceeded to finish the day's assigned work schedule.

The next day, Gabriel and Makoshika State Park Manager Mike Sullivan proceeded to the flagged spot and began uncovering the eye socket and intact jawbone of a juvenile triceratops with a skull measuring five feet from beak to frill. As the year drew to a close, the site was covered back up and plans were made to excavate the skull and body, if any, at a later date.

Through the generosity of the Milwaukee Museum, the skull was to be donated to the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. The skull is on permanent display in the new Makoshika State Park Visitor Center.

Since the cost of the excavation was estimated to be \$40,000, Gabriel and her associates with the Milwaukee Public Museum, in conjunction with the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, MT, raised funds and provided volunteer labor for this noble and lofty project.

In July 1991, after twenty days of

work, which involved three volunteer crews moving over 400 yards of soil, the skull and body parts were transported to the Museum of the Rockies.

Prior to the dig and up to the dinosaur's removal, the Friends of Makoshika raised \$3,000 from sales of a lithograph donated by Gayla Weidenheft of Bozeman. They also applied for and received an additional \$5,000 from the Paddlefish Caviar project sponsored by the Glendive Chamber of Commerce. This money was submitted to the State of Montana and, with matching funds, provided the dollars necessary to begin funding the preparation and restoration of a magnificent piece of Montana's past.

All told, an estimated \$60,000 was raised through volunteer and grant efforts to provide visitors at Makoshika State Park with the opportunity to share in the uniqueness of this artifact and experience the diversity contained within the Big Sky Country.

We've long known that Montana's state parks preserve priceless relics of the past. Yet the Makoshika find proves that we have yet to discover all the treasures of the parks.

Welcome to Terry!

Relax in our Park Picnic or Swim

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Three natural bridges about 10 miles west of Terry, MT

Charles E. Franks photo

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Terry



Far Flung Fame



Lady Evelyn Cameron used her large format Graflex camera to record the 1894 to 1928 history of the Terry region. She has captured her own shadow in the right hand corner of this photo.

Photo courtesy of Prairie County Museum

A British lady, her naturalist husband, and her unwieldy 5x7 Graflex camera moved to Terry, Montana in the 1800's. "Lady" Evelyn Cameron took startlingly clear pictures of everything: cowboys, sheepherders, weddings, river crossings, freight wagons, people working, badlands, eagles, coyotes and wolves.

Through her camera lens Terry was recorded for posterity. That posterity has turned into national acclaim for the area through the work of former Time-Life Books editor, Donna Lucey. In the late 1970's, Lucey discovered thousands of Cameron's photo-negatives stashed away in the basement of Cameron's best friend's home. Lucey quickly realized she had discovered a treasure trove of masterpieces chronicling the lives of Terry's early settlers.

After years of sorting the photographs and studying Cameron's meticulously-kept diaries, Lucey published "Photographing Montana 1894-1928: The Life and Work of Evelyn Cameron," a photo-book that beautifully depicts Cameron's photographic genius and her unique personality. National magazines and television net-

works carried stories on the unusual frontier photographer.

Now, large, crisp copies of the photographs that made her famous are on display in Terry at the new Cameron Gallery. The collection is a stunning portrayal of the everyday lives of eastern Montana homesteaders. Free.

More of Cameron's photos, as well as some of her personal effects, are on display at the Prairie County Museum.

Agate Country

Terry is nestled against the Yellowstone River in the heart of agate country, where people come from all over the United States to hunt along the river, the creeks and nearby hills, gathering the translucent rock with the rough skin. The agate can be clear, spotty, banded, almost black or dendritic. Slabbed with a diamond saw, the rocks are mostly used for jewelry, wind chimes, lamp shades and coffee tables.

Petrified and agatized wood and colored jaspers are common in this area. Hunting for these treasures can make a pleasant day, but be sure to ask permission from the owner if hunting on private land.

The Yellowstone River at this point is

also known as one of the easy-floating rivers, with currents at 4.7 mph, ideal for the novice or the pro-floater, with scenery and wildlife abundant. Enjoy hunting and fishing at their best in Terry Country.

Historic Sites

Take a short drive up the "Scenic View" road northwest of Terry to see the famed "Badlands." Terry country is also rich in history. Travel to the famed base camp area of the Custer Expedition and visit the graves of soldiers who died from wounds received in the Battle of the Little Bighorn and where the Far West steamboat docked. Thirty-five miles north of Terry is the location of the battle of General Miles and Sitting Bull.

Nostalgia

When is the last time you drove through the ticket window, put the speaker in your car window and leaned back to watch a movie? You can still enjoy popcorn under the stars at an outdoor theater in Terry. It is one of the last of its kind in the country.

Services

Terry offers a hospital, airport, churches, rifle range, outdoor theater, museum, historic hotel, motel, campgrounds, tow service, locker plant, a variety of stores, bars and cafes, a newspaper, beauty salons, an agate shop, and a helping hand, if needed.

Museum

Prairie County Museum is housed in the old State Bank of Terry, an antique treasure itself, with beautiful marble floors and paneling, fine woodwork and lovely glass. It is filled with displays of historic interest: tools, appliances, small machines, and horse and buggy equipment. A dentist office, barber shop, butcher shop, one-room school, library, hospital room, laundry, kitchen, dining room and bedroom date back to the turn of the century. Also on display are thousands of old photographs, including some from the famous Lady Evelyn Cameron collection, and an extensive manuscript file is being built.

Museum members are helpful to tourists and to past residents searching out historical sites and places of interest. Open Memorial Day through Labor Day, six days a week (Wednesday through Monday, closed Tuesday).

1995 Events in Terry

Amateur Rodeo.....July 4
Terry Yippee Days,
3 1/2K and 5K runs July 29
Prairie Co. Fair Aug. 18-20

Hunting

The West's Great Heritage



Custer's Last Hunt? Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer is pictured here with a six point bull elk. The wild game the cavalry encountered helped feed the troops as they rode and camped through the West. Custer wrote under this picture: "For my friend, J.H. Beard...G. Custer."

Photo courtesy of Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument Archives

Nearly three million acres of land in southeastern Montana have been opened to hunting in the past few years. Here's how.

For big game hunters looking for a place to hunt deer and antelope on private lands in eastern Montana, the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks Block Management Program assists in providing hunters access to private land.

More than two million acres of private land are contracted under the Block Management Program in Region 7 of southeastern Montana alone for purposes of big game hunting. An additional 500,000-plus acres of federal lands adjacent to the block management areas also became available for hunting

There is no charge to hunters to use any of the block management units. The program is funded entirely by sportsmen license dollars, and federal matching dollars.

A Block Management Bulletin, published by the Region 7 FWP office is available to the public. The bulletin, which is free of charge, lists all of the block management units in reference to location, contact persons, hunting opportunities, and other information. To request a copy of the bulletin, write to: Regional Information Officer, Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Box 2004, Miles City, MT 59301 or call (406) 232-4365.

To acquire maps and access information in Region 5, southcentral Montana, write to: Regional Information Officer, 2300 Lake Elmo Drive, Billings, MT 59105, or phone (406) 252-4654. Phone

calls are welcomed to offer the most current information.

"It is one of the ways we can help our in-state and out-of-state sportsmen, and it's good for the landowners," says Regional Game Manager for southeastern Montana, Neil Martin.

The department emphasizes that the Block Management Program has gained in popularity in recent years. They recommend that when you get your bulletin, you make your telephone contact with a block management participant at an early date.

Bureau of Land Management lands are also open to hunting. To acquire maps of these lands, contact the BLM offices at P.O. Box 36800, Billings, MT 59107, (406) 255-2885; or P.O. Box 940, Miles City, MT 59301 (406) 232-4331.

Though trophy animals may be bagged without a guide and outfitter, many hunters enjoy huge success, thanks to the expertise of the people who make spotting game, especially exceptional game, their business. State publications list the licensed guides and outfitters throughout Montana. Write to: Travel Montana, 350 Conley Lake Rd., Deer Lodge, MT 59772, or call 1-800-VisitMT. Nonresidents call toll free 1-800-847-4868.

Hunters are also encouraged to write the Billings and Miles City FW&P offices for a complete booklet of current Montana hunting regulations and applications for out-of-state licenses. These are also available at any authorized license outlet, including many sporting goods stores and convenience stores.

Important! Ask First

Certain hunting and fishing waters on National Parks, Indian Reservations and National Wildlife Refuges may have special rules. Specific information may be obtained from the headquarters of the parks, reservation or refuge involved.

Montanans insist on offering hospitality. In fact, where hunting is concerned, IT'S THE LAW. "Permission to Hunt Big Game—Montana law requires that hunters must have permission of the landowner, lessee or their agent before hunting on private property, regardless of whether the land is posted or not."

License Fees & Seasons

Listed here are the license fees for hunting and fishing in Montana in 1995.

License Name	March 1, 1995
Resident:	
Conservation	\$4
Antelope	\$11
Bighorn Sheep	\$75
Bird	\$6
Black Bear	\$15
Bow and Arrow	\$8
Elk	\$16
Deer A	\$13
Deer B	\$8
Fishing	\$13
Moose	\$78
Mountain Goat	\$78
Mountain Lion	\$15
Mountain Lion Trophy	\$50
Paddlefish	\$5
Sportsman	\$64
Turkey	\$5
Upland Game Bird	\$6
Waterfowl	\$5

Nonresident:	
Conservation	\$5
Antelope	\$153
Antelope B	\$35
Bighorn Sheep	\$478
Bird	\$55
Black Bear	\$120
Bow and Arrow	\$8
Deer Combo	\$245
Deer Combo, Outfitter	\$250
Deer Combo, Landowner	\$250
Deer B	\$53
Elk Combo	\$475
Elk Combo, Outfitter	\$485
Fish, 2 day	\$10
Fish, season	\$45
Moose	\$478
Mountain Goat	\$478
Mountain Lion	\$320
Paddlefish	\$15
Sheep	\$478
Turkey	\$13
Upland Game Bird	\$55
Waterfowl	\$5

Youth and Bowhunter Education Required

All licenses are non-refundable and non-transferable. All hunters ages 12-17 years must show proof of completing a hunter education program before purchasing any hunting license. All bowhunters ages 12-17 years must show proof of completing a course from the National Bowhunter Education Program. Adults (18 or older, first-time) bowhunters must show proof of an NBEP Bowhunter Education Certificate or present any prior year's bowhunting/archery stamp, tag, permit or license from any state or province to purchase a Montana bow and arrow license.

1995 Big Game Seasons

Backcountry deer/elk	Sept. 15-Nov. 26
General Deer/elk (gun)	Oct. 22-Nov. 26
Antelope (gun)	Oct. 8-Nov. 5
Moose	Sept. 15-Nov. 26
Goat	Sept. 1-Nov. 26
Bighorn Sheep	Sept. 1-Nov. 26
Deer/elk archery	Sept. 2-Oct. 15
Antelope archery	Sept. 2-Oct. 7
Black bear (Spring)	April 15-May 31
Black bear (Fall)	Sept. 15-Nov. 26
Lion (hunt)	Dec. 1, 1995-Feb. 15, 1996

Upland Game Bird and Falconry Seasons, 1995

Sage Grouse	Sept. 1-Dec. 15
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Sept. 1-Dec. 15
Mountain Grouse	Sept. 1-Dec. 15
Mourning Doves	Sept. 1-Oct. 30
Common (Wilson's) Snipe	Sept. 1-Dec. 16
Sandhill Crane (Pacific Flyway)	Sept. 9-10 and Sept. 16-17
Sandhill Crane (Central Flyway)	Sept. 23-Nov. 19
Partridge	Sept. 1-Dec. 15
Ring-Necked Pheasant	Oct. 14-Dec. 15
Merriam's Wild Turkey	Sept. 1-Dec. 15
	April 8-May 7

(Some areas by permit only. Check regulations)

Falconry Season:

Falconry Upland Game Birds (except turkey)	Sept. 1-Mar. 31
Falconry Mourning Doves	Sept. 1-Oct. 30

Blue Means "State Lands"

On most ownership and access maps produced by Montana agencies, state lands—usually sections 16 and 36—are the squares colored blue. Use or access of any of these lands requires a Recreational Use License. This license may be purchased at any FWP office or at any license agent. The cost is \$5.

Poacher Hotline

Poachers are just about as unpopular in Montana as locusts on ripe wheat.

TIP-MONT, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks' toll-free "Turn in Poachers, Montana," hotline celebrated its ninth anniversary in 1994. The program is sportsman-financed. The money to fund it comes out of the general license revenue. And the calls that come in are primarily from sportsmen themselves.

The Montana Legislature passed the TIP-MONT program in 1985, allowing FW&P to set up and operate the 24-hour toll-free hotline.

Calls have led to the arrest and conviction of deer, bear, elk, moose and upland game bird poachers. The department averages ten calls per week. Callers may remain anonymous and do not have to testify in court.

TIP-MONT calls have resulted in the successful prosecution and fining of many poachers, and rewards, accounting for 60 percent of the program's operating budget, have been substantial.

The number is 1-800-TIP-MONT (1-800-847-6668).

Record Game Animals

Trophy hunters have bagged some of the biggest game ever taken in Montana or in the nation in the Custer Country region. Vern Delesha shot a typical mule deer in 1983 that scored 205 3/8 in the Boone and Crockett listing near Miles City in Custer County. The second and third largest pronghorn antelope taken in Montana with bow and arrow were the 1984 prize of Robert Labert, who bagged his buck in Yellowstone County and the 1988 prize of Shawn Wahl, a Rosebud County trophy. Labert's buck scored 82 6/8, and Wahl's scored 81 6/8.

A complete book, "Montana's Big Game Trophies," for all species is available from the Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 1420 East Sixth Ave., Helena, MT 59620. Send \$3.00. The book also details the methods of scoring and trophy body weights.

Game Check Stations

By Bill Pryor

Montana law says all hunters must stop at game check stations. Hunters going to the field or hunters coming home, hunters who harvested an animal, and those who didn't must all stop at check stations. There are three kinds of check stations.

One is a biological check station.

Trophy hunters have bagged some of the biggest game ever taken in Montana or in the nation in the Custer Country region

Biologists look at deer, elk, and antelope teeth to tell the age. They check the fat to note the animal's health. They clip off bird wings to determine the number of adults compared to juveniles and males to females. They gather the parts and pieces that, when looked at in a study, give a rough picture of how the animals they are checking are



Ryan Maxwell of Hatfield, PA bagged this typical four-point mule deer buck in south-eastern Montana. Besides leading clients to wall trophies like this one, many of Montana's outfitters volunteer their services for single parent youths who have hunter safety certification.

Photo courtesy of Doonan Gulch Outfitters

faring in that part of Montana.

The second type of check station is a law enforcement stop. It is staffed by game wardens who see to it that state game regulations have been followed during the hunt. The game tags must have the proper month and date snipped out. Evidence of the animal's sex must somehow still be attached to the carcass. (This sometimes causes the hunter to become a creative animal Skinner bound to follow the letter of the "show sex" law.)

Third are combination check stations, staffed by biologists and game wardens. The wardens and biologists process people through as quickly as possible to get them on the road again.

Residency Required

Are you wondering whether you qualify as a Montana resident or non-resident sports license buyer?

Montana's Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks officials report that state law requires anyone purchasing resident licenses to have been a resident of the state for a period of six months immediately prior to the date those licenses are purchased.

According to a department spokesman, residency is determined through a union of act and intent in addition to the required six months of physical residence and presence as a resident of Montana. Union of act and intent is demonstrated by several factors—paying Montana income taxes, possessing a Montana driver's license, having Montana license plates on one's vehicles, maintaining a home and voting in Montana.

Anyone with questions concerning individual circumstances should contact the local game warden of any Fish, Wildlife and Parks office for assistance.

Over-The-Counter Licenses

Both residents and nonresidents can buy "B" mule deer and whitetail deer licenses over-the-counter. All regional FWP offices carry the licenses, as do some of the license dealers. Anyone is entitled to one license for each species. The cost is \$8 per license for residents and \$50 per license for nonresidents. The mule deer license is valid in all 600 (northeastern Montana) and 700 (southeastern Montana) series districts. The whitetail tags are valid in all 600 and 700 series districts and in the 400 series districts with some restrictions.

Doe-fawn antelope licenses are also available over-the-counter in Region 7 and from FWP offices in Region 5. They are \$11 for residents and \$50 for nonresidents. The licenses are valid in all 600 and 700 series districts and in the 400 series district, except 455 and 460.

Contact the FWP offices listed on page 67 to receive a copy of the complete regulations.

The licenses are valid during the regular hunting season in Montana.

All waterfowl and upland game bird licenses may be purchased over-the-counter.

Waterfowl and Upland Game Birds

Many species of waterfowl and upland game birds may be hunted in Montana. Several licenses are required. The general conservation license is a prerequisite for all licenses. It costs \$4 for residents and \$5 for nonresidents. The upland game bird license is \$6 for residents and \$55 for nonresidents. The turkey license is a separate license at an additional \$13 for nonresidents and \$5 for residents. Wild turkeys are abundant in many areas of Custer Country. To hunt waterfowl, both a Federal Waterfowl Stamp and a Montana Waterfowl Stamp are required. The Montana stamp costs \$5 for residents and nonresidents. The Federal Stamp is \$15.

For a complete guide of seasons and regulations, write to the Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks offices in Custer Country. Turn to page 67 for address information.

Waterfowl Stamp

Oregon's Ducks Unlimited's "Artist of the Year" in 1987, 1989, and 1992 has moved to Montana.

And with him, Wayne Dowdy brought his love for waterfowl. "I personally love waterfowl, and I believe that preserving our wildlife through art and effective conservation and wildlife management is the greatest legacy we

can leave our children," said the artist.

He set four tundra (whistling) swans against a dramatic backdrop of the Rocky Mountain foothills west of Freezout Lake WMA. His entry was selected for Montana's 1995 stamp from the 13 Montana residents' entries.

The stamp is available to anyone for \$5. Write to Duck Stamps, Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, P.O. Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701.

Disability Access

For a number of recreation enthusiasts, disabilities can make participating in the state's recreational abundance difficult or impossible.

The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has embarked on a major new program that addresses the needs and



Wayne Dowdy's tundra swans are depicted on the 1995 Montana Waterfowl Stamp

rights of recreationists with disabilities.

The program is called "Crossing the Barriers."

At all FWP regional offices, the department's headquarters in Helena, and over 40 FW&P-administered sites around the state, parking areas, restrooms and trails have undergone accessibility improvements over the past three years. Through the help of a state study group, the improvements will continue.

Winter Recreation

When the snow is on the ground, Custer Country offers miles of snowmobiling and cross country fun.

Two areas are especially popular with snowmobilers. Near Miles City is the Tongue River Trail. The best place to "put in" is at Spotted Eagle Recreation Area. The trail is right on the shallow, frozen river. Another designated trail is the road through the Makoshika State Park badlands at

Glendive. Depending on snow conditions, snowmobiling is allowed on and off the eight mile road.

The "Snowmobile Law and Safety" guide is available through the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Montana requires a nonresident temporary-use permit, which is valid for thirty consecutive days. To receive the guide and pamphlets on snowmobile safety and avalanche awareness and precautions, write to Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Headquarters, 1420 6th Ave., Helena, MT 59620 or phone (406) 444-2535. The Montana Snowmobile Association offers information by contacting them at Box 3202, Great Falls, MT 59403.

A state tourism department publica-

tion, "Montana Snowmobiling Guide," including trail systems, rentals, services, lodging and activities throughout the state, is available by writing: Snowmobile Guide, Travel Montana, Helena, MT 59620, or call toll free 1-800-VISIT MT. In Montana, call (406) 444-2654.

For weather reports, contact the National Weather Service, (406) 449-5204.

Cross Country Skiing

Cross country skiing is another winter sport that offers trails of fun. Camps Pass in Custer National Forest is 18 miles east of Ashland on U.S. Highway 212. The trail is designed with two loops, with parking at the trailhead. Each loop is 2 kilometers. They are rated "easy" and "more difficult." The trails are groomed intermittently. For up-to-date information, contact the District Ranger, Custer National Forest, Ashland, MT 59003, (406) 784-2344.

Public Lands

*State and Federal Lands in Custer Country
Offer Recreational Opportunities For All*



Pictograph Cave State Park visitors learn about the pictures in the sandstone and about the people who made them.

Photo courtesy of Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

State Parks

Listed below is a summary of the ten State Parks in the Custer Country region. "Great Escapes," a guide to Montana's State Parks, by Rick Newby, with more detailed information is available by contacting the Parks Division of Fish, Wildlife and Parks at 2300 Lake Elmo Drive, Billings, Montana 59105, 252-4654 or Highway 10 West, Miles City, Montana 59301, 232-4365. The book sells for \$10.

Some variations are listed below for each area.

MAKOSHIKA

To the Sioux Indians, Ma-ko-shi-ka meant bad earth or bad land. Today the badlands of Makoshika are set aside for visitors to see and enjoy. In addition to the pine-and-juniper-studded badlands formations, the park also holds the fossil remains of such dinosaurs as tyrannosaurus and triceratops. A Visitor Center houses a triceratops skull and other badlands interpretive displays. Included within the park are archery and shooting ranges, scenic drives and nature trails, a campground, a group picnic area, and many picnic sites. (On Snyder Ave. in Glendive; 8,123 acres; 2,069' el. (406) 365-6256.)

The park is open April to Memorial Day 9-4 daily; Memorial Day to Labor Day 9-6 daily; Labor Day to Sept. 30 9-4 daily; Oct. 1 to Dec. 24 9-4 Wed-Sun.

Fees: Daily entrance fee of \$3 per vehicle or \$.50 walk-in. \$5.00 per night camping fee. \$15.00 annual entrance passport good at all state parks.

INTAKE

Northeast of Glendive 13 mi. on Hwy 16 on the Yellowstone River: \$5 camping fee, no entrance fee. The fishing site is famous for paddlefish, catfish, wall-eye. (406) 365-8596.

MEDICINE ROCKS

As its name implies, Medicine Rocks was a place of "big medicine" where Indian hunting parties conjured up magical spirits. "As fantastically beautiful a place as I have ever seen," said one of its first tourists in the late 1800s, a young rancher named Teddy Roosevelt. Weathering has given the soft sandstone rock formations a Swiss-cheese look. The park is also a haven for mule deer, antelope, and sharp-tailed grouse. (located between Baker and Ekalaka on Montana 7; 316 acres; 3,441' el. (406) 232-4365.)

No fees are charged.

ROSEBUD BATTLEFIELD

Site of the June 17, 1876, battle between the Sioux and Cheyenne Indians and General George Crook's cavalry and infantry. One of the largest Indian battles ever waged in the United States, it set the stage for the Indian victory eight days later when Lt. Col. George A. Custer and his immediate command were wiped out on the Little Bighorn. (Undeveloped.) (25 miles east of Crow Agency on U.S. 212, then 20 miles south on Secondary 314, then 3 miles west on county road; 3,052 acres; 4,300' el. (406) 232-4365.)

Fees: No charge for entrance to this park. Camping is not allowed. Day use only.

TONGUE RIVER RESERVOIR

The impounded Tongue River provides a 12-mile long reservoir set in the scenic red shale and juniper canyons and open prairies of southeastern Montana. Boating and other water sports are popular here, and the park boasts excellent bass, crappie, and wall-eye fishing. Four state record fish have been pulled from its waters. (6 miles north of Decker on Secondary 314, then 1 mile east on county road; 640 acres; 3,424' el. (406) 232-4365.)

Fees: Daily entrance fee of \$3 per vehicle or \$.50 walk-in. \$4.00 per night camping fee. \$15.00 annual entrance passport good at all state parks.

EAST ROSEBUD

Campground, adjacent to NE city limits of Forsyth: \$5 camping fee, no entrance fee.

PICTOGRAPH CAVE

This National Historic Landmark is 7 miles southeast of Billings. Take Lockwood interchange (#452). Then turn south on Coburn Road. Follow the pavement for 3 miles, then the remaining 3 miles will be gravel road. The park is open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. seven days per week from mid-April to mid-October. A self-guided history trail & pamphlet are available.

The site has paved trails to Pictograph Cave and Ghost Cave with interpretive panels along the way explaining the significance of the inhabitation and natural features. Also available are picnic tables, fireplaces, restrooms, benches, a water fountain, and ample parking.

Camping is not allowed and pets must be on a leash.

An entrance fee is charged and con-

sists of an annual entrance passport for \$15.00, or \$3.00 per carload. These fees will be used to maintain this site and to make improvements to the facilities.

Brochures are available at various information offices also. Groups need advance reservations, which may be arranged by calling the following numbers: (406) 855-0255 or (406) 252-4654.

LAKE ELMO

Lake Elmo is located in Billings Heights at 2400 Lake Elmo Drive. The lake is popular for swimming, fishing, non-motorized and electric powered boating, sailing, sailboarding, sunbathing, and picnicking. The park is open year-round. Lifeguards supervise the swimming area during summer months.

Concession services include food, beverages, sundries, and watercraft rentals. Overnight camping, pets, and glass bottles are prohibited.

Fees: An entrance fee is charged Memorial Day through Labor Day. Annual entrance passport is \$15.00 or an individual fee of \$1.00 per adult will be required, and 50¢ for children under 11. (406) 252-4654.

CHIEF PLENTY COUPS

Chief Plenty Coups Memorial is 35 miles south of Billings I-90 Exit 447. Turn right (south) on Highway 416 following signs to Pryor; then go 1 mile west of Pryor. If you take Lockwood Interchange Exit 452 off I-90, then follow Old Highway 87 south to Hardin Road, then turn south and follow the signs.

The park is open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. from May 1 to Sept. 30. The visitor center/museum is open daily, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. In addition to the museum is Chief Plenty Coups' homestead, the medicine spring and a Memorial to his peace efforts and to the Crow Indians.

A spacious picnic area is fully developed with tables, grills, restrooms and drinking water. Camping is not allowed and visitors should be familiar with recreation area rules and regulations.

Entrance fees will be charged at the park and can be paid either upon entering the park or at the museum. Fees consist of an annual entrance passport for \$15.00, \$3.00 per carload, or a walk in fee of 50¢ per person.

A brochure is available at local information centers and at the site. (406) 252-1289.

DEADMAN'S BASIN

Deadman's Basin Reservoir is reached by driving 75 miles northwest of Billings on Highway 3 to Lavina then turning west on Highway 12. The basin is 5 miles west of Ryegate and 19 miles east of Harlowton.

This lake is used mostly for fishing and boating. Other activities include camping, picnicking, swimming, sightseeing, and group reunions.

Large boat ramp, minimal campground areas, outdoor vault restrooms, picnic shelters, picnic tables, fireplaces, and garbage collection system.

Fees: No charge for entrance and camping at this site. (406) 252-4654.

National Forests

CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST

Custer Forest regions such as the Pryor Mountains are an ideal place to hike, ride mountain bikes, watch birds, view wildlife, picnic, camp, photograph nature, hunt, cross country ski, snowmobile and spot wild horses.

In the Ashland District, east of Ashland, hunting for mule deer and wild turkeys is very good. There are also hiking, camping and some cross country skiing opportunities. Bird watchers can enjoy the 200-plus species of birds that frequent the area.

Chalk Buttes, Long Pines, and Ekalaka Hills near Ekalaka, are Custer National Forest lands that provide excellent hunting for mule deer, white-tail deer, and wild turkeys. The Long Pines is noted for the Capitol Rock National Natural Landmark. This area also is known for having a very high density of nesting raptors.

For more information about recreation activities in the Custer National Forest, write to one of the following addresses:

Beartooth Ranger District, Route 2, Box 3420, Red Lodge, MT 59068

Ashland Ranger District, P.O. Box 168, Ashland, MT 59003

Sioux Ranger District, Box 37, Camp Crook, SD 57724

Custer National Forest, Supervisor's Office, Box 2556, Billings, MT 59103

Camping



Camping comes in all styles in Custer Country. Quick, easy set-up is offered at many private campgrounds. Some campgrounds and camping areas are more rustic.

Photo courtesy of KOA Campgrounds

Camping facilities are available in Custer Country at most fishing access sites, and at public and private campgrounds.

Following is a list of public campgrounds and services, and towns near which they are located. The *Afterbay Campground* is a National Park Service facility, located near the town of *Ft. Smith*, 1 mile NE of Yellowtail Dam. It is open all year, has 48 camping spaces, trailers allowed, toilets have handicap access, drinking water available, boat launch for 2-wheel drive with trailer, fishing, no swimming, and nature/interpretive trails; stay limit is 14 days, no fees charged.

Near *Ashland* is *Red Shale Campground*, managed by the Forest Service. It is 6 mi. SE of Ashland on US 212. It is open May 11 to Nov. 15, has 14 camping spaces and allows trailers to 32 ft. It has toilets and drinking water, a 14 day stay limit. A fee is charged.

Medicine Rocks Campground is 25 miles south of *Baker* on MT 7. Development is primitive at this Fish, Wildlife and Parks managed site. It is

open all year and offers camping for trailers up to 20 ft. Toilets and water are available. The stay limit is 14 days and a fee is charged.

Ekalaka has three public campgrounds nearby. *Ekalaka Park*, a Forest Service campground, is 3 miles SE of Ekalaka on Rt. 323, 1 mile W on a county road, 5 miles S on forest service road 813. It is open May 1 to Nov. 15, has 9 camping spaces, allows trailers up to 16 ft., has toilets and drinking water and a 14 day stay limit. No fee is charged. *Lantis Spring* is also a Forest Service campground and is 3 mi. W of Camp Crook, SD, on Hwy 20 SE of Ekalaka, 11 mi. NW on forest service road 117. It is open May 1 to Nov. 15 also, with 5 spaces, allows trailers up to 16 ft., has toilets and drinking water and a 14 day stay limit. No fee is charged. *Macnab Pond* Forest Service campground is 7 mi. SE of Ekalaka on Rt. 323, 1 mi. E on the county road. It is open May 1 to Nov. 15, has camping spaces, allows trailers up to 22 ft. It has toilets and drinking water, fishing, and a stay limit of 14 days. No fee is charged.

Two public campgrounds are near

Forsyth. The *Rosebud (East Unit)*, managed by Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, is off I-94 at Forsyth, E Exit, N to Yellowstone River. It is open year round. Ten camping spaces are available; trailers are allowed. There are toilets and drinking water. There is a boat launch for two-wheel drive with trailer, and fishing. Stay limit is 14 days. A fee is charged. *Rosebud (West Unit)*, managed by FWP also, is W of Forsyth on US 12 at S end of Yellowstone River Bridge, milepost 270. It is open year round. Ten camping spaces are available; trailers are allowed. Toilets are available. Bring your drinking water. A two-wheel drive with trailer boat launch, and fishing are available. Stay limit is 14 days. No fee is charged.

Near *Glendive* are two campgrounds. *Intake* is famous for paddlefishing. Managed by FWP, it is 16 mi. N of Glendive on MT 16, S on a county road. It has 40 camping spaces, with trailers allowed. Toilets and drinking water are available. A boat launch for two-wheel drive vehicles with trailer is available, and various fishing. Stay limit is 14 days. A fee is charged. *Makoshika Campground*, managed by FWP, is 2 mi. SE of Glendive through residential section on Snyder Ave. It is open all year. Six camping spots are available; trailers are allowed. It offers handicap toilets and drinking water. Nature/interpretive trails lead through badlands. The 14 day stay limit has both day-use and overnight fee charges.

Huntley Diversion Dam near *Huntley* is 1 mile W of I-94 Huntley Exit on a gravel road. It is open all year and offers camping. A boat launch requires a 4-wheel drive with a trailer. Fishing is available. The stay limit is 14 days.

Riverside Park in *Laurel*, Highway 212 S, on the banks of the Yellowstone River, is a community campground for 100 tents and RV's. Fees are \$7 per night. Some hook-ups are available. Barbecue and picnic facilities, toilets and drinking water are available. A boat launch is available for two-wheel drive vehicles with a trailer.

Barry's Landing Campground, managed by the National Park Service, is 27 miles N of *Lovell*, WY on WY 37. Open all year, it has 9 camping spots for trailers. Toilets are handicap accessible. The boat launch accommodates 2-wheel drives with a trailer. There is fishing there, and hiking trails are developed. The stay limit is 14 days.

The *Cow Creek Campground* is located 8 miles north of *Otter* on Forest Rd. 51,

then 5 miles W on Forest Rd. 95. It is managed by the Forest Service. It is open May 15 to November 1 and has eight camping spaces and accommodates trailers up to 32 ft. It has toilets and drinking water. It offers fishing. The stay limit is 14 days, and a fee is charged.

The *CowBelle Campground* at Roundup is located at the fairgrounds on the southeastern edge of town. It offers overnight camping and RV parking, barbecue pits and good shade. No fee is charged.

The *Tongue River Reservoir Campground* is managed by FWP and is

6 mi. N of Decker on Hwy 314, 1 mi. E on a county road. It is open all year. It has 100 camping spaces and trailers are allowed. It has toilets and drinking water. A boat launch is available for two-wheel drive vehicles with trailers. Fishing is offered. The stay limit is 14 days with both day-use and overnight fee scales.

Private campgrounds are available in nearly every town in Custer Country. Ask locally or refer to the Montana Travel Planner for complete listings. Advertisers below invite you to enjoy their facilities



Some campgrounds offer an authentic, early-day "camping" experience in teepees. Round arbors, constructed of poles and leafy branches, like the one pictured here, are used for shade. Hundreds of teepees, arranged in patterns, and arbors cover the campgrounds at Crow Agency during Crow Fair.

Gloria Wester Photo

~Camping in Custer Country~

TOWN	NAME/LOCATION (*all phone number use area code prefix (406))	SEASON	# Tent	# RV	Teepees	Water	Electric	Sewer	Dump	Shower	Laundry	Store	Color TV	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PAGE REFERENCE
BAKER	Roy's Motel-Campground, 778-3321, 327 W. Montana Ave.	All Yr.	6	15		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Hot tub, nearby pool, golf course, fairgrounds - Pg. 18
BROADUS	Wayside Mobile/RV Park AAA, 436-2510, 1.5 mi. west at junction US 212 & MT 59	All Yr.	20	18		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Next to 9-hole golf course
CUSTER	Fort Custer Restaurant & Campground, 856-4191, Hwy 47 & I-94, 1 mi. E of Custer	All Yr.	6	6		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Restaurant & Bar - Pg. 102
EKALAKA	Cline Camper Court, 775-6231, W of town near fairgrounds	5/1-12/1	6	15		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Swimming Pool, Medicine Rocks nearby
FORSYTH	Wagon Wheel Campground, 356-2454, I-94 Exit 95 1/2 mi. So of interstate	4/1-10/31	10	10		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Fishing, restaurant, pool, museum, within 1.5 mi. Pg. 55
FORT SMITH	Cottonwood Camp, 666-2391, 3 mi. north on Rt. 313	All Yr.	50	15		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Fishing - Pg. 94
GLENDALE	Glendive Campground, 365-6721, I-94 Exit 215, N of I-94	4/1-10/1	7	50		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Playgrnd, restaurants, motels near - Pg. 31
	Green Valley Campground, 365-4156, I-94 Exit 213, 1/2mi. N	4/1-11/1	50	42		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Fee fishing, playground, rec room - Pg. 31
HARDIN	Grandview Campground, 665-2489, I-90 Exit 495, 3/4 mi. S on Rt 313	All Yr.	40	60		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Gift shop, pool, tennis, playground nearby - Pg. 87
	Hardin KOA, 665-1635, I-90 Exit 495, 1.25 mi. N on MT 47	4/1-9/30	18	53		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Swim Pool, hot tub, camping cabins, playgrnd - Pg. 88
	Sunset Village, 665-1100, I-90 Exit 495, 1.8 mi. S on Hwy 313	All Yr.	10	37		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Playground, nearby pool, tennis courts - Pg. 82
LAUREL	Pelican RV Park, 628-4324, Fax 406-628-8442, I-90 Exit 437	All Yr.		40		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	24 hr. restaurant, log cabins, propane - Pg. 124
MILES CITY	Miles City KOA, 232-7049, I-94 Exit 135, Go 2.4 mi. L at 4th St, L at Palmer	4/1-10/31	32	58		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Heated pool, playgrnd, walk to town, museum - Pg. 46
TERRY	Diamond Campground, 637-5407, I-94 Terry Exit, 1 mi. N	4/15-10/15		20		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Restaurant next door - Pg. 34
	Terry RV Oasis, 637-5520, I-94 Exit 176, 1st St left 10 blks.	5/1-10/30	8	12		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Shady, green and clean - Pg. 34

Wildlife Watching

“When Montana’s first official explorers, Lewis and Clark, passed through what was then part of the Louisiana Purchase in 1805-1806, they were literally struck silent by the numbers and diversity of wildlife. Captain Clark was so awed that at one point in his journal he vowed to write no further about this country’s amazing animal numbers for fear no one would believe him.”

This quote is from the introduction to “Montana: Wildlife Viewing Guide.” The guide is a multi-agency project, involving the public land management agencies in Montana: the U.S. Forest Service, Northern Region; the Bureau of Land Management; the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the Montana Department of State Lands; and the National Park Service. It is written by Carol and Hank Fischer.

Since Montana is such a big state (fourth largest of the United States), the guide first divides the state into the six state-designated tourism regions. Maps of each region are designed to point out wildlife viewing locations. Each area is described, including a description of the wildlife activity of the location. Directions to the site, ownership of the site, and size are given. Symbols tell what facilities are available, and recreation opportunities. The guide includes 113 viewing sites.

The Custer Country tourism region has twelve designated wildlife viewing areas: Lake Mason National Wildlife Refuge - Roundup; Two Moon Park - Billings; Norm Schoenthal Island - Billings; Pompeys Pillar National Landmark - Pompeys Pillar; Howrey Island - Hysham; Yellowtail Dam Afterbay - Fort Smith; Black’s Pond Drive Route - Ashland; William L. Matthews Recreation & Habitat Management Area - Miles City; Terry Badlands - Terry; Makoshika State Park - Glendive; Medicine Rocks State Park - Baker, Ekalaka; and Long Pines - Ekalaka. Wildlife featured includes songbirds, upland birds, shorebirds, waterfowl, birds of prey, small mammals, hoofed mammals, carnivores, reptiles/amphibians, and fish.

From all indications, wildlife watching may become the premier outdoor recreation activity of the 1990’s. The number of adult Americans involved in wildlife watching and related activities has increased tremendously. One federal survey reports that in the Mountain States people taking primary wildlife viewing trips increased 76 percent between 1980 and 1990.

Those involved are committed to making Montana’s wildlife viewing as accessible as possible, while at the same time protecting the animals and their habitat as prudently as possible. Knowing that people combine wildlife viewing with other recreation, they have made a special effort to develop sites that are accessible by a variety of means—from a car, on foot, from a boat, on a bike, etc.

At the sites, rules are posted that explain where people can go and when. Wildlife viewers are cautioned to obey the rules and stay on trails. The goal is to allow animals to carry out their normal behavior without interruption.

Watchable Wildlife Poster

Watchable wildlife is one of the best reasons for traveling to Montana. Nationally famous Montana wildlife artist, Monte Dolack, has created a poster to show off, support and preserve the state’s wildlife treasure.

The poster, depicting loons and other wildlife on a lake, is designed to heighten awareness of the needs of all Montana’s fish and wildlife, from common loons to painted turtles.

The poster costs \$25 plus \$5 for shipping and handling and is available by writing to: Montana’s Watchable Wildlife, P.O. Box 1718, Helena, MT 59624, or phone 1-800-582-2665. Checks should be made out to Montana’s Watchable Wildlife, and proceeds will benefit the more than 600 species of wildlife and fish in Montana.

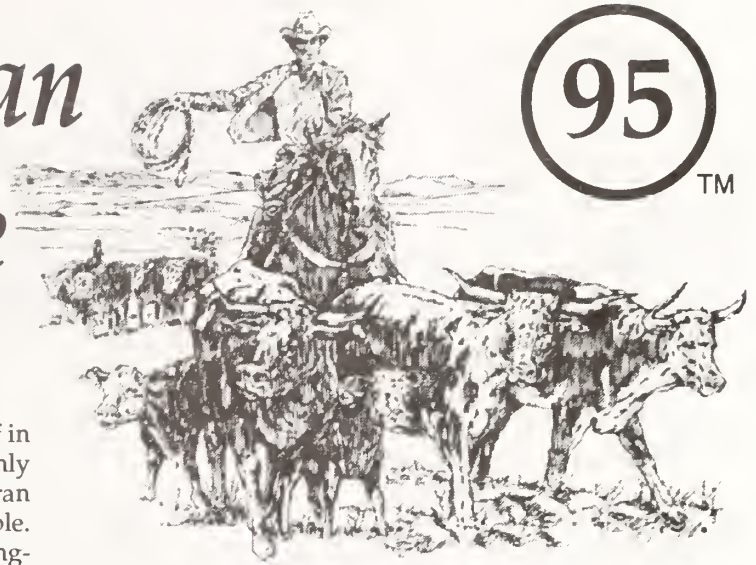


“Who is viewing whom?” asks this horned owl.

Donna Delp Photo

Great American Cattle Drive

95TM



In American history one individual stands out.
The American cowboy.

At the end of the Civil War there was a shortage of beef in the Northeast. With the South in ruins, Texas was the only reasonable source of beef. Though the longhorn cattle ran wild, a handful of Texas men dared to do the impossible. With the best cowboys Texas had to offer, these wild longhorns were rounded up, branded and driven north to the railheads of Kansas for shipment to the Northeast.

A few of these men had a vision. With free grazing land in Montana for the taking, a herd of Texas longhorn breeding stock was trailed north to Montana. Although the great trail drive era is over, history will repeat itself this year.

In honor of the American cowboy...with all the romance and mystique of "Lonesome Dove," a herd will be trailed from Fort Worth, TX in March—destination...Miles City, MT.

The six-month cattle drive will pass through six states, 22 counties and about 100 cities. Five historic cattle drive routes will be used in parts of the drive. Twenty-four real ranch hand cowboys will herd 300 steers along farm to market roads and small state highways for the whole nation to see.

The herd will be moved approximately 10-15 miles a day Wednesday through Sunday, resting Monday and Tuesday.

A clean-up crew of 300 stewards of the land, sponsored by John Deere will clean, fix, smooth, and replant behind the drive.

If you happen to be near Fort Worth on March 2-4 you can get in on the kick-off events.

The herd's Aug. 19 arrival in Sheridan, WY, near Custer Country, will be heralded with the Wyoming State Champion Ranch Rodeo. A big party will welcome the drive as it crosses the Montana border near Decker.

Camps in Montana have been scouted and pegged down by one of Montana's cowboys on the drive, Walt Secrest of Crow Agency. Landowners who have supported the adventure by offering the crossing and use of their land include John O'Neil, Peabody Coal, Dick Hosford, Bill McKinney, Jack Knobloch, Mark Bloxham, the Ball Ranch, Bill Nefsy, Dr. Pezzarossi, and Jeff Landers. The drive will follow the Tongue River from Decker to Miles City, stopping at this sequence of locations, about 12 miles apart, each night.

Secrest will be a popular guy on the trail. He will be commander of the chuckwagon. The drive welcomes "outriders" (the cattle drive term for spectator-participants) at \$100 a day, which includes three square meals.

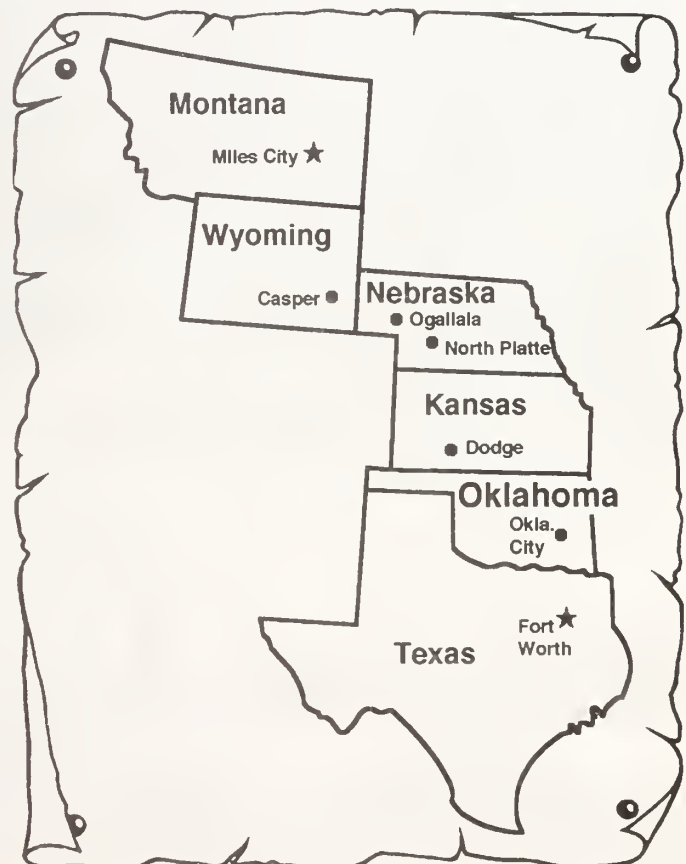
The drive has cooked up some side fun. Cooking contests at "outposts" along the trail will culminate in a cook-off at the end of the drive. Ranch rodeos along the way will end in one big shebang in Miles City.

Miles City has marked August 26 as the date for the Montana State Champion Ranch Rodeo at Miles City. On

August 31 the drive will camp five miles south of Miles City. Several rip-snortin' days and nights of fun will ensue until September 1 when the drive will trail right down Main Street in Miles City, bound for market. A huge auction will sell off the horses, steers, and wagons, designated as part of the official drive.

The Second Grand All-around Championship Rodeo will be September 2. The top State Champion cowboys and cowgirls from Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Montana will compete for the crowns on some of the toughest stock in the Northwest.

For sign-on information write to Great American Cattle Drive, P.O. Box 4278, Fort Worth, TX 76164-0278, or call (817) 625-4093.





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May 20 – **Quick Draw**

May 21 – **Bucking Horse Sale**

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Miles City

Cowboy Capital of Montana

Miles City, the county seat of Custer County, is truly a roughneck cowboy delight. Featured as the town where Gus McRae died in the ABC Mini-series "Lonesome Dove," the city is today a thriving, up-to-date community which holds to its western culture with great pride and perseverance. Historically speaking, Miles City came into existence on the heels of a military expedition sent into the Valley from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, following the Battle of the Little Bighorn, on June 25, 1876, when Gen. Custer and his immediate command of five troops of the 7th Cavalry were annihilated by the Sioux Indians led by Sitting Bull.

Miles City had a notable birthing. Col. (later Gen.) Nelson A. Miles, in command of the six companies of the 5th Cavalry stationed at Fort Leavenworth the summer of 1876, received orders to proceed to the Yellowstone Valley in Montana, and there to establish a cantonment from which he was to conduct a campaign to compel bands of wandering Indians to return to their reservations.

Arriving early in the fall, Miles conferred with Gen. Alfred E. Terry, commanding the Department of the Dakotas, who was still in the field following the Custer massacre. He selected a site at the mouth of the Tongue River on which to build the cantonment. The Army engineers surveyed the tract of land 10 miles square and established a reservation. It was just across this reservation on the east of the south bank of the Yellowstone River that the first village was set up. A year later when the War Department abandoned it, the village "moved" itself, cabins and appurtenances, to the present site. The new community was named "Miles City" in honor of the commanding officer. While the village was founded in 1877, it was not until



History will spring to life when cowboys drive cattle through the streets of Miles City at the end of the Great American Cattle Drive on Labor Day weekend this year. "Lonesome Dove" style, the cattle will trail from Fort Worth, TX to Miles City. As shown above, Miles City has welcomed cowboys to herd their year's pay through the streets to market in recent years, too.

Gerald Anglum Photo

1887 that Miles City was incorporated.

As the cattle industry was most important, it was fitting that the Montana Stockgrowers' Association was formed in Miles City in 1884. The coming of the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1881 predetermined that

Miles City should become a leading cattle market.

Breeder Show

One day during the first week in February every year, Main Street is filled with pens displaying various breeds of young bulls. Many people



Some go "Through the Looking Glass" and some go "Through the Tunnel" to find the creative world of art. In Miles City, those who enter through the tunnel will find themselves in an old waterworks plant that has been transformed into the lively Custer County Art Center, an enchanting place of changing exhibits, a variety of classes, and a gift shop. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the center is open year round.
Photo courtesy of Custer County Art Center

besides cattle producers come to the show and sale.

No Parking Meters

Contemporary Miles City has not been swept up by the winds of change which have threatened to shape look-alike communities across the nation. Miles City still has a traditional American Main Street with a dime store lunch counter and a saloon painstakingly restored to its early decor. There are no parking meters!

The 9,000 area residents are good hosts who enjoy talking about the many historic photographs proudly displayed, about the hunting and fishing in the area and about some of the "characters" who fashioned the town's personality. But the local Chamber of

Commerce's motto, "Proud Past: Progressive Future" also describes Miles City. The community's many ser-

vices have made it the hub of Southeastern Montana—the center of vacation-time attractions.

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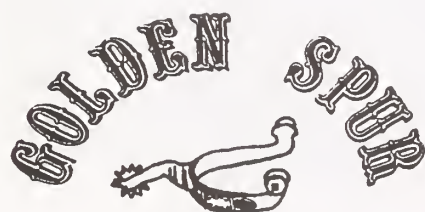
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General Nelson A. Miles

General Nelson A. Miles, a very close friend of Col. George Armstrong Custer, had outstanding influence in the opening of the West.

By his uniquely successful military campaigns, his humane negotiations and post-capitulation treatment of the various Indian tribes, he was able to establish and maintain peace.

The World Famous Miles City

Jaycee Bucking Horse Sale

Miles City pays homage to the horse during the third weekend of May at the Miles City Jaycee Bucking Horse Sale, the biggest and most famous annual event in Miles City. Rodeo stock contractors from many states come to Miles City to watch the best of the wild, undomesticated horses buck.

The best horses are sold in auction, and appear in rodeos all over the United States.

Other activities such as western barbecues, Western Art Quick Draw, a cowboy poet gathering, dancing in the streets, and western parade draw huge crowds. Early reservations for accommodations are recommended. Call the Miles City Area Chamber of Commerce for more information (406) 232-2890.

Range Riders Museum

With the addition of the Bert Clark Gun Collection, the Range Riders Museum has truly become one of the finest in the Northwest. The collection numbers in excess of 400 pieces. The collection includes pieces from the Revolutionary War era, and the firearms used by the early settlers and military personnel. It also includes such exotics as a set of duelling pistols



Spirited horses explode from the chutes at the Miles City Bucking Horse Sale. Range horses like those pictured below may someday become prize rodeo stock.

Photo above by Gary Wunderwald, courtesy of Travel Montana

Photo below by Donna Delp



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MILES CITY 232-4560

from Belgium and an elephant gun, one of only eight manufactured and one of four known to exist today.

The museum complex is set on the original site of the Fort Keogh cantonment. It has grown to include the main building, the Clark Gun Collection Building, Memorial Hall, Fort Keogh's Officers Quarters Building, the Heritage Center, and an original log cabin. Each unit has its own story to tell; yet each is a part of the overall history of the West.

The items on display at the museum are as diverse as the Montana landscape. It is a must that you stop while traveling through the great state of Montana. The time spent, whether it be for one hour or one day, will give you a better insight into the hardships and the adverse conditions the early day settlers overcame to make this such a great country. The museum is indeed a lasting tribute to these early day pioneers.

Custer County Art Center

Custer County Art Center, located in a park overlooking the Yellowstone River, is a non-profit institution providing quality visual art exhibits and programming.

The art center has two large, elegant galleries and an alcove gallery, with changing exhibitions throughout the year, from its permanent collection and exhibitions from around the United States and a gift shop.

The Western Art Roundup and a Quick Draw in the park coincide with the Miles City Bucking Horse Sale in May.

Old West Photographers

Miles City has a love affair with old photographs which have captured the pioneer lifestyles of stock growers, cavalry officers and their troops, merchants and social life. The interrupted lifestyle of the Indians is also portrayed.

Some of the intrepid early photographers include favorites, Christian Barthelmess, featured at the Range Riders Museum; Lady Evelyn Cameron; local "character," J. R. Morrison; and L.A. Huffman, whose photos have enjoyed national and international distribution.

These photos can be seen at the museum, at the Custer County Art Center, and at Riggs Camera and Gifts.

Golf Course

If you're looking for a little pleasant exercise in an equally pleasant setting, you can't do much better than Miles City's Town and Country Club, located on the southwest corner of town on the east banks of the Tongue River. The nine-hole course combines the aesthetics of relaxing cottonwood-shaded greenery with contours that can be a challenge.

The club is open to the public through greens fees, and its many social functions are often open to the general public as well. Call for a tee time (406) 232-1500.

Natural Oasis

The pause that refreshes on a hot summer day is a dip in Miles City's unique outdoor municipal pool, a "natural oasis," located next to the city park which is perfect for picnicking or just relaxing. Just a short distance from the pool is a recreation area which has boating facilities. Plenty of fishing sites may be found along the Tongue and Yellowstone Rivers, and a number of reservoirs in the Miles City area are also available for fishing. A variety of other recreational activities are available: tennis, golf, bowling, racquetball, movies, and river floating.

Eastern Montana Fair

The Eastern Montana Fair is a four-day event beginning in August. Attractions include rodeos, tractor pulls, demolition derby, plus commercial exhibits and a carnival. Many other special activities will be taking place in the '95 Eastern Montana Fair.

Accommodations

Miles City has 17 restaurants, including both sit-down and fast food types, two supper clubs, and four lunch counters. The eating establishments are conveniently located in three areas: Downtown, Haynes Avenue and Valley Drive East.

Overnight lodging is available in the same areas. There are 10 hotels/motels with a total of 458 units, as well as a campground facility located on either end of town.

Tour Loops

Tour loop suggestions and directions to explore the cultural and historic sites in and around Miles City are available in the Miles City Visitors Guide, available free at the Chamber of Commerce (located downtown, 406-232-2890) and from local businesses. The guide also has maps and brief histories of sites and highlights wildlife viewing areas.

1995 Miles City Events

April: Springfest.....	21-22
Western Art Roundup.....	27-July 9
May: Jaycee Bucking Horse Sale ..	19-21
Quick Draw and Art Auction.....	20
June: Hot Air Balloon Roundup...	23-24
Fort Keogh Days	
Encampment	June 30-July 2
July: Fireworks	4
Bill Newhouse Legion Baseball	
Tourney	5-9
Classic Car Club Show	8
Highland Festival	29
Aug: Eastern MT Fair	24-27
Fall: 20th Annual Art Auction	
Exhibit	Aug. 31-Sept. 30
Ram Sale.....	Sept. 13
POW-MIA Reunion.....	Sept. 22-24
Art Auction.....	Sept. 30
Parade of Lights	Nov. 24
Christmas Market.....	Dec. 2-3

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Try Your Luck!

Gambling is legal in Montana

Montana has legalized limited gambling, including machine poker and keno, live card games and bingo. As a visitor to Custer Country, you will find many friendly taverns, clubs and casinos that offer the unique opportunity to step back in time and try your luck!

Five-card draw, seven-card stud, and hold-'em are the most popular live poker games in the area. There is a \$300 pot limit on the stakes.

Video poker pits player against machine in a game of five-card draw. Most machines take quarters, but many businesses have nickel machines, too. After placing a bet, the player is dealt five cards on the screen. The player

then has the chance to discard in order to improve the hand. Winning hands are possible through a variety of combinations. Machines vary, some including "jacks or better" payoffs and some adding a "wild card." The pay-off is from 1 to 50 times the bet to a maximum of \$100 on a quarter bet. Up to eight quarters may be played on a bet.

Keno is also legal in both live and video versions. The game of keno, originally a form of Chinese bingo, is based on random numbers. After placing a bet, the player picks from 1 to 10 numbers out of 80. By computer, the machine randomly selects and marks 20 numbers on the screen. Payouts are made according to how many of the

player's numbers match the machine's numbers. The maximum pay-off is up to \$800, again based on the amount wagered.

All gambling machines are monitored by the Montana Department of Justice and guarantee an 80% or better winning pay-out. Many establishments also offer bingo. Pari-mutuel horse racing, whether it is live or is simulcast-beamed by satellite, is also legal in Montana. The state produces a lottery with \$1 tickets available through retail outlets. Changing games add to the excitement of the lottery. Montana Cash Lottery is a state lottery. A \$1 ticket lets the player choose two panels of five numbers. Matching 3 out of 5 pays \$5, 4 out of 5 pays \$200, 5 out of 5 wins the jackpot. The jackpot starts at \$20,000 and \$10,000 or more is added each week until it's won. (The state's earnings help fund education.) The state also participates in Tri-West Lotto and Powerball lottery with other states. The Powerball stakes are worth millions. Six numbers are drawn every Saturday and Wednesday night.

So, pardner, you're legal to try your luck at these games while you are in Montana and Custer Country.

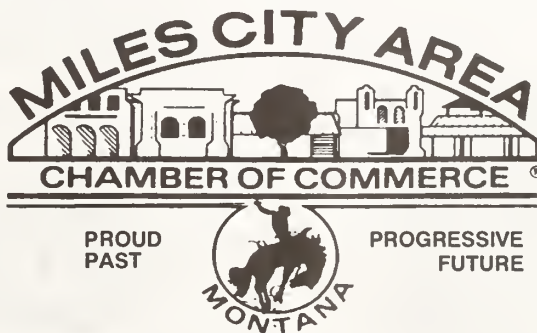
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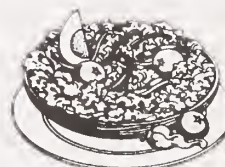
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History Abounds In This Important 'Port Of Call' On The Banks Of The Mighty Yellowstone



Ranching operations involve all hands at spring branding and vaccinating time. The early-day practice of branding identifies the owner of the cattle. It helps get stray calves back to their rightful owners.

Donna Delp Photo



Forsyth

Forsyth, the county seat of Rosebud County, is a congenial city of about 2,500 friendly folks. Located on the banks of the Yellowstone River at the junction of I-94 and U.S. Highway 12, Forsyth was founded in 1880 and officially named when the post office and Northern Pacific Railroad were established there in 1882. The town was named after General James H. Forsyth, the first U.S. Army officer to land by steamer at the site of the present town.

Lewis and Clark Trail

In the exploration of the great Northwest Territory, Capt. William Clark passed through Rosebud County on July 28, 1806 en route down the Yellowstone River to meet Meriwether Lewis, who was traveling down the Missouri River. Forsyth is located along what is known as the Lewis and Clark Trail.

Top Notch Hunting

If hunting and fishing spark your fancy, the Forsyth area will certainly

appeal to you. Big game hunting includes trophy antelope as well as mule deer and whitetail deer.

Upland birds? You bet! Through the cooperation of Montana's Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and area landowners, a few minutes in your vehicle puts you smack dab in the middle of ducks, geese, pheasants, grouse, partridges and wild turkeys.

Small Town Comforts

Forsyth provides the comforts of friendly small-town living, along with recreation that only Montana can offer. The friendly people of Forsyth invite you to visit, live, and play in southeastern Montana, in Custer Country.

Custer Was Here

Near the town of Rosebud, just nine miles east of Forsyth, is the spot where General Custer camped at the mouth of Rosebud Creek before traveling up that creek on his way to the Little Bighorn in his ill-fated campaign against the Indians. His trek to the Little Bighorn (formerly Custer) Battlefield, 100 miles

south of Forsyth, is marked, showing some of the embattlements from his Indian skirmishes.

Interested in Recreation?

A variety of recreational opportunities is available in the Forsyth area. Parks provide activities including football, track, baseball and softball fields, playgrounds, picnic areas, swimming and wading pools, bathroom facilities, covered grandstands and grassy play areas. There are also ice skating rinks, tourist parks, lighted tennis courts and racquetball facilities.

Boating and fishing excitement flow with the wide Yellowstone River, right next to Forsyth. Two state parks give access to the river, with plenty of camping and picnic space.

In winter, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling are popular in the Forsyth area, and downhill skiing in the mountains is only three hours away.

Golf Anyone?

About a mile and a half west of Forsyth is the Forsyth Country Club with its beautiful nine-hole golf course with well-maintained fairways and greens, along with sand traps and water hazards to test your skills.

Agate Hunting

The surrounding area abounds in agates. The Montana moss agates are modules of gray, translucent chalcedony which, when cut and polished, are seen to contain small manganese dendrites of pleasing appearance.



Forsyth Country Club Golf Course is a challenging nine hole course. Visitors are welcome and are encouraged to call ahead for tee times.

Roger Vraa Photo

Enthusiastic agate hunters visit the Yellowstone River banks each year, and lapidary work is the hobby of many.

Pioneer Museum

Situated next to the courthouse is the Rosebud County Pioneer Museum which you may visit for a glimpse of the past, including items used by early settlers, and many pictures of things and people as they were "in the olden days."

Hours: First week of May, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; second week of May to September 15, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday thru Saturday, 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Sundays.

Sizzling Summer Fun

Summertime is when Forsyth really kicks up its heels.

The first major summer event is Forsyth Rodeo Days, which will be held June 2-4 in 1995. Team roping is held the first day, followed by two action-packed days of NRA sanctioned rodeo. To top it off, leading bull riders from the northern area compete in the exciting "Bullmania" event. The Rodeo Days Parade is held Saturday morning at 11 a.m.

In late July, the Yellowstone River Duck Festival features eastern Montana's original rubber duck race, plus a downtown street dance with live country music. It's a shindig you shouldn't miss!

August brings the Rosebud-Treasure County Fair—four days of rodeo, exhibits, carnival, dancing and fun, topped off with a demolition derby and big-name entertainment.

Down to Business

While oil, coal, and lumbering are among the top industries in the area, dryland and irrigated farming are prominent, and the raising of beef cattle and good quality horses ranks among the top activities in the area. Thousands of cattle are shipped to market from this area annually. Many horses are trained and shown throughout the northwest.

Sheep and wool are also of economic importance in the county.

Forsyth can accommodate the traveler in all needs, having hotels, motels, a variety of cafes and restaurants, a theatre, a modern, fully equipped hospital, doctors, dentists, optometrists and a chiropractor. The emergency medical service personnel are highly trained and equipped. There are gas stations, grocery and clothing stores, pharmacy, flower shop, crafts shop, and a variety of gift shops. Tillitt Field, located three miles east of Forsyth, is a county operated airport with terminal service.

National Register Building

The Rosebud County Courthouse, located in Forsyth, is a neoclassical, three-story building, capped with an ornate copper dome. It is listed in the

National Register of Historic Places. The top floor of the courthouse, including the courtroom, is decorated with murals and stained glass. Directly under the copper dome, in the ceiling of the foyer, is a large, circular, stained-glass window. This courthouse is not your run-of-the-mill public building, and is well worth a stop to view.

Rosebud County

Rosebud County, established in 1901, is the third largest county in the fourth largest state in the U.S. It is more than four times the size of the state of Rhode Island.

In the southern portion of the county is the Northern Cheyenne Reservation with a population of 3,100. The Cheyennes are "The Morning Star People."

Also of interest in the county are St. Labre Indian School at Ashland, and Colstrip, the site of one of the largest strip coal mines in the state.

In the town of Rosebud, a site of interest is a non-denominational church which is the oldest continuously operating church in the state.

Far West State Recreation Area: 1 mile north of Rosebud on Secondary 446, then 1/2 mile west on county road.

Rosebud State Recreation Area (East Unit): I-94 at Forsyth, east exit, then north to Yellowstone River.

Rosebud State Recreation Area (West Unit): west of Forsyth on U.S. 12, south end of Yellowstone River Bridge, milepost 270, boat ramp and access.

1995 Events in Forsyth

May: May Day Golf Tourney.....6-7
June: Ladies Bud Light Golf.....1-3
 Forsyth Rodeo Days (NRA).....2-4
 Rodeo Days Parade.....3
 Mayor's Cup Run (5K, 10K) 10
 Rocky Mountain Oyster Open Golf Tournament.....16-18

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Appreciation Day Street Dance and Barbecue	17
Matthew Quigley Shoot	18
July: Tavern Golf Tourney	1
Seniors Golf Tourney	22
BN Railroad Day	TBA
Yellowstone R. Duck Festival	22
August: Rosebud-Treasure County Fair	3-6
Rosebud Health Care Center Charity Golf Tourney	5
Forsyth City Golf Tourney	12-13
Farmers Market	26
Jack's IGA Golf Tourney	27
Sept: Farmers Market	9
Lions Club Golf Tourney	10
Country Club Calcutta	16-17
Nov: Christmas Walk	24
Dec: Holiday Basketball Tourney	29-31

The rodeo stock is tough at Forsyth Rodeo Days. This saddle bronc rider has drawn a horse that will give him a high scoring ride... if he can stay aboard for eight seconds!

Cathy Byron Photo



WAGON WHEEL

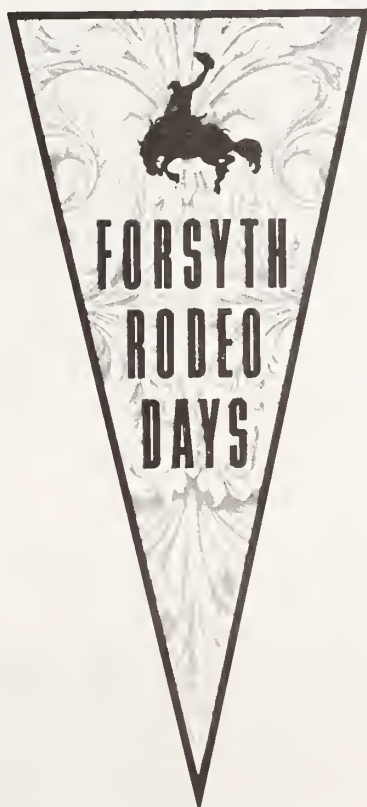


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Images of Forsyth: Historic courthouse, pronghorn antelope, scenic Yellowstone River

Photos courtesy of Joe Wilson (Yellowstone); Fish, Wildlife & Parks (pronghorn); and Connie Wanner (courthouse)

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Ardena Whitesheid, above, shows samples of Cheyenne bead and quill work on buckskin.

St. Labre Indian School at Ashland, MT, serves the Northern Cheyenne, Crow, and Fort Belknap Indian Reservations at four schools. At right is Father Emmett holding a smiling student.

Besides school work, students enjoy activities, games and horseback riding. The school gives tours.

Below, Jimmie Little Coyote stands with a pinto horse, draped in ceremonial beaded buckskin. The display is part of the Ten Bears Gallery and Museum at the St. Labre School, which is open to the public.

Photos courtesy of St. Labre Indian School



Cheyenne Traditions

The Cheyenne Indians hunted the animals of the plains, then used the original "natural fabrics" to make rawhide garments. Quills and feathers adorned the tanned hides. Beads, brought by the westward moving White Man, became an artistic medium in the creative hands of the Cheyennes. Colorful geometric patterns were created bead by bead. The garments are worn at ceremonial events. Lama Deer, MT is headquarters for the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.



Wohehiv

The Morning Star Shines Brightly On The Cheyenne Reservation

The Morning Star design is the official emblem of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. The origin of this design is lost in antiquity, but it has always carried a very special meaning down through the generations. For the Cheyennes, the Morning Star "lights the morning sky and shines more brightly than the other stars." It has a different color. The Cheyennes often pray when they see this star early in the morning sky. It has its own name in the Cheyenne language: WOHEHIV.

The Morning Star design is used as the trademark on craft items as well as being the officially recorded brand of the Cheyenne cattle herd.

The 444,525 acre Northern Cheyenne Reservation is in Rosebud and Big Horn Counties, extending from the Crow Reservation eastward to the Tongue River. It is not checker-boarded with non-Indian land as are most reservations in this area. About 20 percent of the Indian families live in the rural area along the streams and rivers. The remainder are concentrated principally in four small towns in the area.

Lame Deer

Lame Deer is headquarters for the tribe and the site of the offices of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Northern Cheyenne annual pow wow takes place every July 4th, with competitive Indian dancing contests, parades, etc. Places are available to camp, and photography is encouraged.

The Northern Cheyenne Arts and Crafts Center features Cheyenne-made crafts, such as moccasins, belts, jewelry and other beaded gifts, souvenirs and decorator items. The Craft Center is located on the eastern edge of Lame

Deer, along Highway 212.

Cheyenne Depot Makes History

The first tribally owned convenience store in Montana opened in June 1988—the Cheyenne Depot. This thriving business provides a means of employment for tribal members.

For campers, Lame Deer has the Ha Ho Campground, located just one mile east of town on Highway 212.

Native American History

In the Lame Deer Cemetery are the graves of Chief Dull Knife (also known as "Morning Star") and Chief Little Wolf, who together historically led a small band of Northern Cheyenne Indians back to the homeland from exile in the Indian lands of Oklahoma, following the tribe's participation in the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

Lame Deer is also the home of Dull Knife Memorial College.

Annual Northern Cheyenne Pow Wow

Put this date on your calendar—July 1-4, 1995. You won't want to miss the traditional Pow Wow held in Lame Deer every year at this time. There will be the Princess Contest (all princesses welcome), dance contests in all categories, parades and grand entries. Gourd dancing is held daily, and rations and feasting are always part of the festivities. All drums, dancers and singers are welcome. For more information, contact the Tribal Secretary, (406) 477-6284.

Other Dates of Pow Wows:

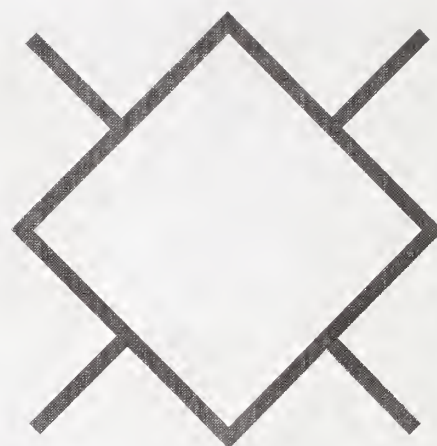
Lame Deer Memorial Pow Wow &

Rodeo—Memorial Day Weekend

Lame Deer Pow Wow—July 1-4

Ashland Labor Day Pow Wow—Sept.

2, 3, 4



Veteran's Day—Nov.

Pow Wow, Lame Deer

Busby Christmas Pow Wow—

Dec. 24-26

Lame Deer New Year's Pow Wow—

Dec. 31-Jan. 2

For additional information on Cheyenne culture, crafts and events, contact the Northern Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce at (406) 477-8844 or write them at Box 328, Lame Deer, MT 59043.

Busby, Two Moon Monument

In 1993, an historic reburial was held in Busby, bringing home the remains of ten men, five women, and two children who had died about 116 years ago during the Indian Wars. The remains had been in the possession of museums at Harvard's Peabody Museum, the National Museum of Health and Medicine and at the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of Natural History.

The "museum burials" were the result of an 1880s Army directive ordering military surgeons to collect the skeletal remains of Indians killed in battle in order to gauge the ballistic effectiveness of new Army carbines and to study Indian subcultures. A federal law was passed in 1990 that allowed the return of the bones to their homelands for burial.

The remains were buried in a circle near the Two Moon Monument on Highway 212.

The Chief Two Moon Monument at Busby was built in 1936 by an Indian trader, Monicure, in memory of Chief Two Moon who participated in the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

Ashland

At Ashland, 21 miles east of Lame Deer, are the St. Labre Mission and the Cheyenne Indian Museum. Take the time to visit these two attractions, located side-by-side on the edge of Ashland.

Free tours of the mission and museum are available.

Located on Highway 212, the shortest route between the Black Hills and Yellowstone Park, Ashland is an ideal spot to take a break. It has the Cheyenne Reservation on one side and a beautiful segment of Custer National Forest on the other. The town has traveler comforts — motel, cafe, groceries, propane fill-ups, antique shops, and a bank. Authentic beadwork is available, as well as beads and other craft materials.

Ashland can also be reached from I-90 at Exit 510. Just exit at Little Bighorn Battlefield, at the Highway 212 junction.

Rural Experiences

Exciting days and nights on a working ranch, horseback riding and cattle drives are some of the western opportunities for fun offered by farm and ranch operations in the Ashland area. See page 63 for a list of contact names and phone numbers.

Reservation History

After the Northern Cheyennes helped defeat Custer in 1876, their pursuit eventually caused them to be detained in Oklahoma Indian Territory. Sick and hungry, determined to return to their homeland, on Sept. 7, 1878 the Cheyennes under Dull Knife (also called Morning Star) and Little Wolf escaped. Pursued in the rear, intercepted on their way, these determined people fought, froze and starved to death to reach home. An executive order on Nov. 26, 1884 finally set aside a tract of country for the Northern Cheyennes in Montana.

St. Labre Indian School

In 1883, a soldier, Private George Yoakam, stationed at Fort Keogh near Miles City, recognized the hard times experienced by the Northern Cheyennes. He contacted Bishop Brendel and told him of the Indian people who were roaming the Tongue River Valley without homes or land. Land was purchased by the Bishop in the Tongue River Valley and on March

29, 1884, St. Labre Indian School became a reality. Four Ursuline Sisters from Toledo, Ohio, responded to the bishop's request for priests and nuns.

St. Labre Indian School made a humble beginning with the construction of a log cabin school operated by the Sisters. This three-room cabin served as residence, school and dormitory, as well as the church. Today St. Labre provides accredited K-12 education to 750 children at four different locations. Beyond educational programs, St. Labre provides group homes for children from broken homes, college scholarships, business investments to promote employment, alcohol rehabilitation, cultural studies and many community programs.

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Chief Lame Deer's tomb.

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A familiar landmark on the Highway 39-212 route to the Little Bighorn Battlefield is the Montana Power Plant complex.

E. J. McNicol Photo

The Town That Coal Built



Colstrip

Colstrip, Montana, was born in 1924 when the Northern Pacific Railroad started mining coal nearby for fuel for their steam locomotives. They had engines called Mallets that pulled freight trains over the Rockies and Cascades. These freight trains were a mile long and consumed a lot of fuel. Forty-four million tons of coal were produced before the diesel locomotives took over in 1958.

The Montana Power Company purchased the coal leases in 1959 from the Northern Pacific and with this they acquired the mining machinery and Colstrip town site.

A subsidiary of Montana Power Co., Western Energy Co., started mining the coal in 1968. At this time Colstrip had 63 houses, a school, two churches, a grain elevator, and a few buildings left from the early days.

Construction of Colstrip Power Plants 1 and 2 started in the fall of 1971, bringing work to eastern Montana and growing pains to Colstrip. Nearly \$315 million was spent on these units, not including the \$35 million for the steel

tower transmission lines. Construction on Colstrip Units 3 and 4 began in 1979, at a cost of \$1.8 billion.

Now in Colstrip, you'll find lovely homes, townhouses and duplex units; playgrounds and parks are in every neighborhood. The school and recreational facilities are superb. There are baseball and ice skating complexes, a swimming pool, tennis courts, wading pools, basketball courts, bike paths, tot lots, stores, bowling lanes and a movie theater.

Free Tours

At the Colstrip Visitor Center, video tapes explain some of the history of Colstrip, the operation of a coal-fired power plant and the workings of an open-pit coal mine. Visitor Center hours are as follows: Memorial Day to Labor Day, Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Labor Day to Memorial Day, Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Tours are available to the Rosebud open-pit coal mine on a daily basis, with the Colstrip Visitor Center furnishing both the guide and the transportation at no charge. Reservations are suggested during the summer. Call (406) 748-5046 during

regular business hours. Tours at Big Sky Mine are available by appointment. Call (406) 748-2321.

Annual Pow Wow

Colstrip is located on the way to and from the Black Hills of South Dakota; is on the route to Yellowstone Park; is only a 1-1/2 hour drive from Pompeys Pillar (another national landmark). Two Indian reservations—the Crow and the Northern Cheyenne—are located south of Colstrip.

Don't miss the Annual Northern Cheyenne Pow Wow at Lame Deer, Montana, 25 miles south of Colstrip, the 4th of July weekend.

Lake, Camping, Airstrip

On the northwest edge of Colstrip is Castle Rock Lake, where swimming, fishing and limited boating can be enjoyed. The lake is surrounded by bike paths and picnic areas for summer fun and exercise.

Camping facilities available through Colstrip Community Services, (406) 748-2375.

The Colstrip Airstrip is located five miles west of Colstrip and is open day and night.

Colstrip Days

Colstrip Days (Parade, Carnival, Booths, Entertainment).....June 24-25

Golf Course

A challenging nine hole golf course—Ponderosa Butte Public Golf Course, adjacent to Hwy 39 on the north side of town (across from the high school) and has the appropriate street address of 1 Long Drive. It has a club house with food and beverage services, pro shop, rentals. For tee time: (406) 748-2700.

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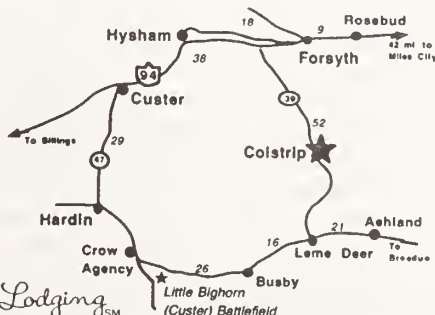


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MONTANA POWER COMPANY / Colstrip Project Division and WESTERN ENERGY COMPANY

We invite everyone to visit Colstrip. Our Visitor Center located at 6200 Main Street offers free tours Monday-Friday at 10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. As seating on tours is limited, please call 748-5046 to make your reservations.



Donna Delp
Photo

Prairie Vocalist

The Montana state bird is the mountain meadowlark. Besides being a fun bird species to spot, the meadowlark has an unmistakable song.

When watching for the meadowlark, look across the prairies, cultivated meadows, valleys and grassy plains all across the state. You will note the unmistakable yellow breast, set off by a black swath—like a bandana—draped around the bird's neck.

In April or May, meadowlarks build their nests on the ground among grasses, where they lay three to seven eggs. Working together, the pairs first find or scratch out a depression in the grass, and carefully line the nest with a layer of coarse grass, followed by fine grass and hair.

Then they construct a grass roof, woven into surrounding vegetation and finish with an entrance hole on one side.

If a nest is destroyed by mowing or other mishap early in the nesting season, the hardy birds start over.

Montana takes care of the meadowlark and other such animals in its "Nongame Wildlife Program."

Rockhound's Paradise

The Yellowstone River in Eastern Montana is renowned worldwide for the quality and abundance of agates found on its shores. Montana's agates, sometimes called plume or moss agates, are famous for the variety of scenic designs sealed permanently in the stone's interior. Montana agate occurs in a variety of patterns, from those with red and dark brown bands to the prized dendritic forms.

Agate is a translucent rock with rough skin. It occurs primarily in terrace gravel deposits high on the hills above the Yellowstone River and its tributaries, as well as in the sand and gravel bars within the streams and rivers themselves. Since the gravel within streams and rivers is constantly shifting, these are probably the best areas to search.

Guided agate-hunting boat tours are available. Contact the Glendive Chamber (406) 365-5601 or write: P.O. Box 930, Glendive, MT 59330 for guide service information and self-guided agate hunting opportunities.

Hunting for agates is a fun and unique recreation for visitors to southeastern Montana.

Geology is both productive and aes-

thetic in Custer Country. One of the world's largest coal supplies lies just under the surface cover near Colstrip and offers the fruit of its industry.

Lewis and Clark's Expedition of 1804-1806 first recorded the unusual rock formations of the southeastern Montana region. From the rimrocks that frame the Billings valley, to Pompeys Pillar (a sandstone formation rising from "nowhere," named by and inscribed by Captain William Clark), to the beauty of the badlands of Glendive's Makoshika State Park, the geology offers a rewarding excursion through Custer Country.

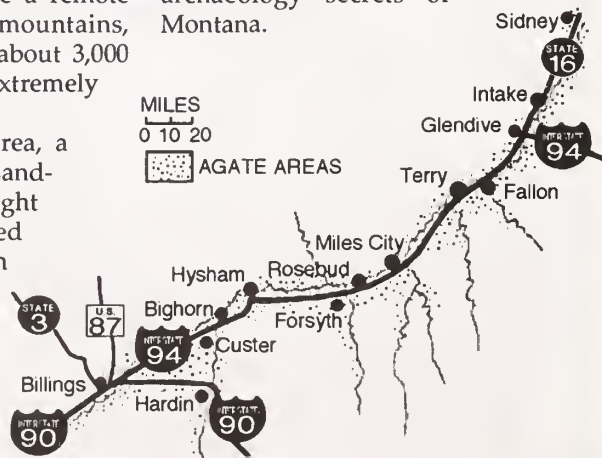
The Pryor Mountains are a remote collection of limestone mountains, ranging in elevation from about 3,000 feet to 8,000 feet. They are extremely rich in archaeological sites.

In the Terry badlands area, a band of dark gray shale is sandwiched between layers of light yellow sandstone and capped by red clinker, formed when burning coal seams baked adjacent rock layers. The contrasts are beautiful, especially during sunrise and sunset. The badlands appear

harsh from a distance, since weathered hillsides support little vegetation; however, the area is surprisingly diverse in plant and animal life.

Look for gnarled limber pine, remnants of a past climate, growing well east of their normal range. To explore, take the Terry exit from I-94 and travel two miles north on MT Hwy 253. Turn west off the highway at the "Scenic Overlook" sign, and drive approximately six miles on gravel road to the overlook. (Caution: this road is impassable when wet.)

Many books are available in the region to help unlock the geology and archaeology secrets of Montana.



Try a Custer Country Ranch Vacation or a Cattle Drive

A variety of farm and ranch experiences is available for Custer Country visitors. You can stay over night at a real farm or ranch and wake up to a home-cooked Montana style breakfast.

You may have an opportunity to participate in activities, such as repairing a fence, feeding the animals, haying, horseback riding and branding.

Additional activities may include small cattle drives, wagon rides, fishing, hiking, and campfire entertainment. The following is a list of some of the farm and ranch experience outfitters in Custer Country. Each offers an individual type of adventure. Contact them directly for details and reservations.

Anvil Butte Ranch Vacations

Room 1, HC 71 Box 7335
Wibaux, MT 59353
(406) 795-2341

Big Sky Roping Ranch

Dennis & Pat Tryan
2174 North 8th Road
Huntley, MT 59037
(406) 348-2460

Bozeman Trail Camp, Inc.

Box 71
Pryor, MT 59066
(406) 855-1276

Buffalo Creek Ranch

Mike & Dixie Myhre
Pineview Road
Custer, MT 59024
(406) 947-2424

Broken V Guest Ranch

473 Horsethief Rd.
Roundup, MT 59072
(406) 323-1562

Cow Camp (Powder River Co., MT)

931 Beason Rd.
Recluse, WY 82725
(307) 687-1210 (406) 427-5056

Double Spear Ranch

Tony Blackmore
P.O. Box 43
Pryor, MT 59066
(406) 245-7673 (Ph/FAX)
(406) 259-8291

Glenarrow Working Ranch

Dick & Francee Shaules
P.O. Box 73
Ballantine, MT 59006
(406) 967-6281

Lost Spur Working Ranch

Shelley MacKay Dean
Box 81
Willard, MT 59354
(406) 778-7338

Nunberg N-Heart Ranch

HC 71, Box 7315
Wibaux, MT 59353
(406) 795-2345

Montana Ranch Tours

P.O. Box 128
Boyes, MT 59316
1-800-492-8835

Rumph Ranch

Box 334
Biddle, MT 59314
(406) 427-5030

Sacred Ground

P.O. Box 43
Pryor, MT 59066
(406) 245-6070
Ph/Fax (406) 245-7673

Shively Ranch

P.O. Box 181
Pryor, MT 59006
(406) 259-8866 (in season)

The 7th Ranch

Chip and Sandy Watt
Reno Creek Rd.
Garryowen, MT 59031
(406) 638-2438

White Buffalo Ranch Retreat

P.O. Box 484 YRS
Fort Smith, MT 59035
(406) 855-5544

Wolf Mountain Ranch

P.O. Box 0543
Lodge Grass, MT 59050
(406) 757-2495

want to join one that travels for several days, pitching camps at night, eating chuckwagon meals, and making friends around campfires at night. Listed here are some of the outfits trailing out of Custer Country.

Carter County Wagon Train

P.O. Box 275
Ekalaka, MT 59324
(406) 775-6273

Double Rafter Cattle Drives

Krayton and Druann Kerns
419 E. Main
Laurel, MT 59044
(406) 628-2320
1-800-704-9268

Myers Ranch Wagon Train

P.O. Box 70
Isma, MT 59336
(406) 772-5675 Fax (406) 232-6687

Powder River Wagon Trains & Cattle Drives

P.O. Box 676
Broadus, MT 59317
(406) 436-2350,
436-2404
1-800-982-0710

Roundup Cattle Drive

P.O. Box 205
Roundup, MT 59072
1-800-257-9775

Tongue River Wagon Trains

Jack Goss
P.O. Box 432
Ashland, MT 59003
1-800-345-5660

WSC Livestock Cattle Drives

Walt Hinebaugh
221 River Road Loop
Glendive, MT 59330
(406) 365-5839 (406) 388-7506

Zane Spang

Box 62
Ashland, MT 59003
(406) 784-6150

Wagon Trains

There's a chance to relive a chapter out of the saga of the old West when you follow the stars to Custer Country. Several groups offer wagon trains and cattle drives (though not as wild as you saw dramatized in "City Slickers"). Some outfits allow you to sign on for a day on the wagon trail, seeing teepee rings, wildlife and scenery changed only by nature from the way it was hundreds of years ago. Or you may



Dixie Myhre, Buffalo Creek Ranch Photo



Colorful vacations in Big Sky Country!

Jim Duncan Photo

March, 1995

Gun Show & Sale, Billings 3/31/4/2

April, 1995

Anne Frank Exhibit, Billings 1-8
Fiddlers Jamboree, Roundup 2
Home and Garden Show, MetraPark, Billings 7-9
Hardin Trade Show, High School, Hardin 8
NILE Bull Riders Contest, MetraPark, Billings 15
Billings Symphony Concert, ABT, Billings 22
Much Ado About Nothing, BST, Billings 4/21-5/6
Springfest, Miles City 21-22
Gem and Mineral Show, MetraPark, Billings 22-23
Riverfest, Riverfront Park, Billings 23
Peaks to Prairie Race, Run, Bike, Boat,
Red Lodge to Billings 30
Western Art Roundup, Miles City 4/27-7/9

May, 1995

Big Sky Intercollegiate Rodeo, Billings 4-7
Buzzard Day, Makoshika State Park, Glendive 6
Bump & Run Motocross Rally, Roundup 7
Montana Women's Run, Downtown Billings 13
Big Sky Polka Fest, Elks Club, Billings 13-14
NILE Spring Horse Show & Sale, Billings 12-14
High School Rodeo, Richey 14
Paddlefish Season, Glendive/Intake 4/15-6/30
Wine Festival, MSU-B, Billings 19-20
Bucking Horse Sale, Miles City 19-21
Ranch Tours, Broadus 20-25
Quick Draw Art Auction, Miles City 20

Pompeys Pillar Opens for Season 27
Memorial Pow-wow and Rodeo, Lame Deer 28-30
Baxter Black, Broadus 30

June, 1995

Chicago, Billings Studio Theatre drama, Billings 2-17
Forsyth Rodeo Days (NRA), Forsyth 2-4
Children's Fishing Tank, Roundup 3
Bump & Run Motocross Rally, Roundup 4
District High School Rodeo, Roundup 9-11
Tractor Power Pull, Hardin 10-11
Walleye Tournament, Fort Smith 10-11
Mayor's Cup Run, Forsyth 10
Strawberry Festival, Downtown Billings 10
Ranch Tours, Broadus 10-15
Festival of Cultures, RMC Campus, Billings 11
World Figure Skating Champions, Billings 11
Deb Wobig Memorial Rodeo, Hardin 18-19
Quilters in the Library, Hardin 6/15-7/15



"Custer" brings history to life!

John Brewer Photo

1995 Custer Country Calendar

Western Days Parade, BBQ, Street Dance, Downtown Billings	16-17
Guitar, Fiddle, Banjo Jamboree, Broadus	18
Matthew Quigley Shoot, Forsyth.....	18
Military Ball, Museum, Hardin.....	22
Little Big Horn Days Parades, Events, Hardin.....	22-25



Get ready to rodeo!

John Brewer Photo

Little Big Horn Days Rodeo, Hardin	23-24
Custer's Last Stand Re-Enactment, Hardin	23-25
Balloon Rally, Miles City	23-24
Badlands Drifters Car Show, Glendive	23-24
Colstrip Days Parade & Carnival, Colstrip.....	24-25
Little Levi Rodeo (12 and under), Broadus.....	24
Symphony Concert in Pioneer Park, Billings	25
ZooGrass Festival Concert, Noon-5, Billings	25
Wagon Train, Ingomar to Roundup.....	6/29-7/4
Fort Keogh Days Encampment, Miles City.....	6/30-7/2

July, 1995

Fourth of July Celebration, Wibaux	1-2
Ice Cream Social, Museum, Wibaux.....	2
Northern Cheyenne Pow-wow, Lame Deer	1-4
Pow-wow, Lodge Grass	1-4
Rodeo, Parade, Night Show, Ismay (Joe)	1-2
International Baseball Tournament, Laurel	1-4
Street Dance, Laurel.....	3
Carter County Wagon Train, Ekalaka	2-4
Fallon County Days Celebration, Baker	2-4
Parade, Rodeo and Fireworks, Roundup	3-4
1 Mile, 5 Mile Fun Run, Broadus	4
Fireworks, Wibaux	4
Ranch Rodeo, Broadus	4
Parades, Largest Fireworks in State, Laurel.....	4
Amateur Rodeo, Talent Show, Fireworks, Hardin	4
Amateur Rodeo, Terry.....	4
Parade and Celebration, Hysham.....	4
Fireworks & Celebration, Miles City.....	4
Fireworks at Belltower, near Ekalaka	4
Independence Day Celebration, Glendive	4

Fireworks, MetraPark Grandstand, Billings	4
Food Fair, Downtown Billings	5
Yellowstone River Boat Float, Laurel	7-9
Youth Rodeo, Wibaux.....	8
Ranch Tours, Broadus	8-13
Classic Car Club Show, Miles City.....	8
Bump and Run Motocross, Roundup	9
Big Sky State Games, Billings.....	14-16
Tri-County Horse Show, Roundup	15-16
Summerfair, RMC, Billings.....	15-16
Homesteader Days, Huntley.....	15-16
Annual Rodeo, Richey.....	16
Tri-County & 4-H Fair, Roundup.....	20-23
Mountain Man Rendezvous, Red Lodge	21-30
Summer Festival, Glendive	21-22



Crow and Northern Cheyenne Pow-wows!

John Brewer Photo

Yellowstone R. Duck Festival, Forsyth	22
Reunion and Summer Festival, Ingomar	28-30
Great American Championship Motorcycle Hill Climb, . Billings.....	29-30
Yippee Days, Terry	29
Highland Festival, Miles City.....	29
Rodeo, Ingomar	30
Clark Day at Pompeys Pillar	30
Youth & Open Fair, Hardin.....	7/31-8/6



Downtown street fairs and festivals!

Karen Hermanson Photo

August, 1995

Food Fair, Downtown Billings	2
Mountain Man Rendezvous and Cowboy Encampment, Roundup	1-6
NRA Rodeo, Forsyth	3-5
Rosebud/Treasure County Fair, Forsyth	3-6
Big Skyfest, Hot Air Balloons, Billings	3-6
Black Powder Shoot, Broadus	5-6
Hispanic Fiesta, Billings.....	4-5
Bump & Run Motocross, Roundup	6
Cattle Drive/Wagon Train, Broadus.....	6-11 & 13-18
Dawson County Fair and Rodeo, Glendive.....	9-13
Pari-Mutuel Horse Racing, MetraPark, Billings.....	11-13, 18-20, 25-27
Days of '85 Fair, Rodeo, Parade, Ekalaka.....	11-13
Parade and Rodeo, Broadus	11 & 18
MontanaFair, Carnival, Horse Races, Stars, Rodeos, Exhibits, Cattle Shows, MetraPark, Billings	12-19
Roundup Cattle Drive, Roundup	13-18
Taste of Billings, Downtown Billings	16
Crow Fair, Rodeos & Parades, Crow Agency	17-21
Powder River County Fair, Broadus.....	17-19
NRA Rodeo, MetraPark, Billings.....	17-19
County Fair, Parade & Rodeo, Baker.....	17-20
Theater in the Park, Makoshika, Glendive	18-19
Prairie County Fair, Terry	18-20
Threshing Bee, Huntley Project Museum	19-20
Eastern Montana Fair, Miles City	24-27
County Fair, Wibaux	25-27
Rodeo, Wibaux.....	26
Country Fun Day, Walk, Run, Hardin.....	27
Art Auction Exhibit, Miles City	8/31-9/30

September, 1995

Pari-Mutuel Horse Racing, MetraPark, Billings	1-4, 8-10, 15-17, 22-24
Pow-wow, Ashland	2-4
Quarter Horse Fertility & Horse Sale, Broadus	3

Team Roping & Dance, Custer	3-4
Undercover Gals Quilt Show, Hardin	5-15
Home Improvement Show, Billings.....	8-10
Farmers' Market, Forsyth.....	9
Ranch Tours, Broadus	9-14
Bump and Run Motocross Rally, Roundup	10
Ram Sale, Miles City	13
Business Expo '95, MetraPark, Billings	13-14
Herbstfest Celebration, Parades, Food Booths, Entertainment, Laurel.....	22-24
POW-MIA Reunion, Miles City.....	22-24
Hog Heaven Days, Boyce.....	30
Art Auction, Miles City	30

October, 1995

J.K. Ralston Show and Auction, Billings	6
Air Gun Competition, Roundup	7
NILE Exhibits, MetraPark Arena, Billings	16-21
NILE PRCA Rodeo, MetraPark, Billings	17-21

November, 1995

Country Store, Broadus	18
Holiday Food Show, Holiday Tr. Ctr., Billings	18-19
Christmas Walk, Forsyth.....	24
Holiday Parade, Downtown Billings	24
Parade of Lights, Miles City	24
Turkey Tournay & Craft Show, Wibaux	24-26

December, 1995

Christmas Stroll, Downtown Billings.....	1
Christmas Stroll, Roundup	2
Christmas Lighting Festival, Laurel.....	4
Christmas Stroll, Broadus	4
Christmas Pow-wow, Busby	24-26
New Year's Pow-wow, Lame Deer	12/31-1/2

February, 1996

Cowtown Beef Breeders Show, Miles City.....	2
National Rodeo Association Finals, Billings.....	2-4
State All-Class State Wrestling Tournay, Billings	9-10
Montana Agri-Trade Exposition, MetraPark, Billings	Third Weekend

March, 1996

Home Improvement Show, Billings	First Weekend
Bronco Days, Baker	Second Weekend
Go Show Auto Display, MetraPark, Billings Third Wknd	
St. Patrick's Day Parade, Billings.....	17
Montana Outdoor Recreation Exposition, MetraPark, Billings	Fourth Weekend



Bump and Run Motocross events are full of thrills and action!

Stewardship

For the Custer Country Board of Directors, our greatest pleasure is to welcome visitors to our region. The area we promote is known for its natural treasures. They are fragile.

Keeping part of "The Last Best Place" intact for you, your children, and your future generations, causes us to enlist you in our commitment to stewardship.

Visitors and residents have a responsibility for the stewardship of treasures found throughout Montana, whether the treasure is a scenic vista, an archaeological site, or the fossil remains of ancient plants and animals.

In a large, sparsely populated state such as Montana, many areas are vulnerable to vandalism or destruction.

The varied resources found on public land belong to the people of Montana and the American public.

When individuals deface sites or remove resources, those treasures are lost forever.

To save and protect these resources for the enjoyment of present and future generations, we urge everyone to visit Custer Country with the National Park Service's motto in mind:

"Take only pictures and leave only footprints."

Montana Tourism Regions

Custer Country is one of Montana's six tourism regions. Montana is a big state—fourth largest of the fifty. The State Travel Promotion Division has divided the state into regions that surround major attractions.

We hope you have enjoyed and found useful the information in this Custer Country Vacation Guide. The other five regions have similar publications that spotlight their sites and attractions. Listed here are the addresses to contact to receive the other tour guides.

To contact the Custer Country offices, write: **Custer Country**, Rte. 1, Box 1206A, Hardin, MT 59034 or phone (406) 665-1671 (FAX number same as phone) or 1-800-346-1876.

For a free statewide vacation planning packet, write to: Travel Montana, 350 Conley Lake Rd, Deer Lodge, MT 59722. In state, phone (406) 444-2654. Non-residents call toll free: 1-800-Visit MT (1-800-847-4868). You will receive a Vacation Guide which includes a high-way map, and a Calendar of Events.

For information on other regions, write or call the following:

- **Glacier Country**, 945 4th Ave. East, Kalispell, MT 59901 (406) 756-7128
- **Gold West Country**, 1155 Main, Deer Lodge, MT 59722 (406) 846-1943
- **Missouri River Country**, Box 1240, Glasgow, MT 59230 (406) 228-8213
- **Russell Country**, P.O. Box 3166, Great Falls, MT 59403-3166 (406) 761-5036 or 1-800-527-5348
- **Yellowstone Country**, P.O. Box 1107,

Red Lodge, MT 59068 (406) 446-1005 or 1-800-736-5276

**Agency Addresses & Phone Numbers
Bureau of Land Management**

BLM - Tourism

Box 36800

Billings, MT 59107(406) 255-2885

BLM - Tourism

Box 940

Miles City, MT 59301(406) 232-4331

Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Regional Information Officer

Dept. Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Box 2004

Miles City, MT 59301(406) 232-4365

Regional Information Officer

Dept. Fish, Wildlife and Parks

2300 Lake Elmo Drive

Billings, MT 59105(406) 252-4654

National Forest

Custer National Forest

Supervisor's Office

Box 2556

Billings, MT 59103(406) 657-6361

U. S. Forest Service, Northern Region,

Federal Building, P.O. Box 7669

Missoula, MT 59807(406) 329-3814



**Please contact these Custer Country Visitor Service Offices
with your questions or for further information...**

Baker P.O. Box 849, Zip 59313

Phone (406) 778-2266

Billings P.O. Box 31177, Zip 59107

Phone (406) 245-4111 or 800-735-1692

Broadus P.O. Box 47, Zip 59317

Phone (406) 436-2818 or 436-9976

Colstrip P.O. Box 1100, Zip 59323

Phone (406) 748-5046

Ekalaka P.O. Box 297, Zip 59324

Phone (406) 775-6658

Forsyth P.O. Box 448, Zip 59327

Phone (406) 356-2123

Glendive P.O. Box 930, Zip 59330

Phone (406) 365-5601

Hardin 219 N. Center, Zip 59034

Phone (406) 665-1672

Hysham P.O. Box 63, Zip 59038

Phone (406) 342-5457

Laurel P.O. Box 395, Zip 59044

Phone (406) 628-8105

Lavina, Montana 59046

Phone (406) 636-2722

Miles City 901 Main St., Zip 59301

Phone (406) 232-2890

Northern Cheyenne Chamber

P.O. Box 991,

Lame Deer, Zip 59043

Phone (406) 477-8844

Richey P.O. Box 279, Zip 59259

Phone (406) 773-5580

Roundup P.O. Box 751, Zip 59072

Phone (406) 323-1966

Terry P.O. Box 6, Zip 59349

Phone (406) 637-2126

Wibaux P.O. Box 159, Zip 59353

Phone (406) 795-2412

Mont. Chamber of Commerce Box 1730,

Helena, MT, Zip 59624

Phone (406) 442-2405



LITTLE BIGHORN CASINO

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- Full Service Restaurant
- Discount Cigarettes
- Gift Shop
- Live Poker
- Children's Arcade Room
- ATM Machine
- Motel & RV Parking
- For more information call 1-800-808-8868

I-90 Exit 510

Crow Agency, Montana

"Teepee Capital of the World"



HARDIN PHOTO SERVICE

Crow Nation

The Crow Reservation is where culture and tradition are a way of life, perpetuated from generation to generation. Experience the culture of the Apsaalooke, "Children of the Large-Beaked Bird," the Crow People.

Come and share with us our way of life, the history and nature's beauty, the mountains, canyons, rivers, plains, animals and the people, protectors of sacred grounds.

Experience what it is we must keep. A large area was designated to the Apsaalooke in 1851; in 1868 precious portions were taken away.

Now on an area of 3,565 square miles the Crow Nation consists of five main communities: **Wyola**, very southeast, the gateway to the sacred Bighorn Mountains and the Medicine Wheel, where "The Mighty Few" are known for "hand games."

North of Wyola is **Lodge Grass** (the Greasy Grass area and early day summer hunting grounds), the first full service town from the south on I-90, where the cool, shady White Arm Park is. A four-day Valley of the Chiefs Celebration is held each 4th of July here. It is the route through "No water" and "Rotten Grass" to the "Valley of the Chiefs." Southwest is **Willow Creek Reservoir** for fishing, boating, sunbathing and picnics.

Further north is **Garryowen**. A region steeped in rich history that includes Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, borders Crow Agency, hub of tribal management and government. Southwest are St. Xavier and **Fort Smith** near Bighorn Canyon and Yellowtail Dam, the source of the Bighorn River. Northwest on the reservation is **Pryor** home of Chief Plenty Coups State Park. The **Bighorn, Pryor and Wolf Mountains** are our backdrop.

In Crow Agency a brand new **Crow/Northern Cheyenne Indian Hospital** includes a very fine collection of Crow and Northern Cheyenne art-



*Feel the land that lives
and the wind will tell you...*

The Crow Fair and Rodeo celebration is headquartered annually at the tribal campgrounds along the Little Bighorn River near Crow Agency. It will be held August 17-21 in 1995.

Dennis Sanders, Hardin Photo Service Photo

work and crafts for the enjoyment of visitors.

Little Big Horn College, a Tribal community college is also a nucleus of Crow Agency. Among the college's attributes, are its extensive library and Crow Archives, and a tourism program. **Micro Tourism** is a department of the college which offers visitors and tourists catered local and cultural activities and tour packages. Call (406) 638-7223 or write: Little Big Horn College Micro-Tourism, P.O. Box 370, Crow Agency, MT 59022.

Crow Fair, Teepee Capitol of the World—Each year on the third weekend of August (Moon of heat waves on the grass), the season finale is the premier Pow wow of the Plains Indians.

From every western state and Canada, Indians come to camp along the Little Bighorn River. Spectacular parades each morning; an all-Indian rodeo, with cowboys from all over the nation; pari-mutuel racing and betting,

wild horse races and dances. In Crow Agency, the 1995 77th annual Crow Fair will be held August 17-21.

Annually the communities of Crow People live their tradition and hold a variety of cultural events such as hand games, arrow throwing, Indian dances and seasonal ceremonies.

Sought after are beaded finery of the Crow People. Old Crow Indian style designs and contemporary beaded creations on traditional regalia are of collector caliber. Visitors will find many artisans and art pieces.

Cattle drives, trail rides, camp-outs, hiking, guided tours, jackpot rodeos and other recreation are also available through private Native American establishments on the Crow Indian Reservation.

For help with interpretation of cultural activities, contact Burton Pretty On Top, Crow Tribal Office, P.O. Box 156, Crow Agency, MT 59022, (406) 638-2601.



Cottage Inn

22 Hester Avenue
Lodge Grass, Montana 59050

*Home-like Atmosphere
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Stay all night (406) 639-2453*



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Lodge Grass, Montana
3/4 mile off I-90 Exit 530
(406) 639-2443

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business"*





Welcome to the Battlefield!
Cassandra Walks helped greet over 330,000
visitors to Little Bighorn Battlefield in 1993.
Gloria Wester Photo

On a scorching June Sunday in 1876, hundreds of Indian warriors converged on a grassy ridge rising above the valley of Montana's Little Bighorn River. On the ridge, five companies of United States Cavalry, about 210 officers and troopers, fought desperately but hopelessly against many times their number. When the guns fell silent and the smoke and dust of battle lifted, no soldier survived.

Little Bighorn Battlefield was created in 1879, initially to honor only Lt. Col. George A. Custer and U.S. soldiers killed in battle June 25, 1876. Over the years the native Americans who fought Custer also have been memorialized in what was one of their last armed efforts to retain their lands against the contin-

ued encroachment by European cultures.

To understand the circumstances responsible for this clash requires a detailed explanation of events. Many books have been written on the battle history. The Historic Trails Map on page 74 follows the movements of the cavalry and the Indian nations prior to the battle.

Battlefield Tours, Visitor Center

The Battlefield and Visitor Center, which has an interpretive museum, are open until 8:00 p.m. every day in the summer. There is a gate fee of \$4.00 per vehicle to visit the Battlefield and National Monument Museum, \$2.00 per pedestrian. However, those wishing only to visit the Custer National Cemetery are given a free pass.

Admission to Little Bighorn Battlefield is free on Memorial Day, June 25 (the anniversary of the battle), and August 25 (National Parks Day).

The Visitor Center interprets the battle, Indian culture, and frontier soldiers.

One exhibit focuses on the archaeological work that took place on the Battlefield in 1984, 1985, and 1989. The exhibit displays artifacts recovered, such as cartridges fired by soldiers and warriors, equipment and hardware. Another new exhibit displays Custer's

personal possessions. A third consists of a montage of photos of soldiers and Indians who participated in the battle.

Living history talks are given on the grounds about Indian and cavalry life. Guest lecturers give these talks periodically throughout the summer.

Visitor Center Schedule

Spring	8 A.M. to 6 P.M.
Summer (Memorial Day to Labor Day)	8 A.M. to 8 P.M.
Fall	8 A.M. to 6 P.M.
Winter	8 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Memorial Day to Labor Day

Repeated at varying times daily are these live programs and talks:

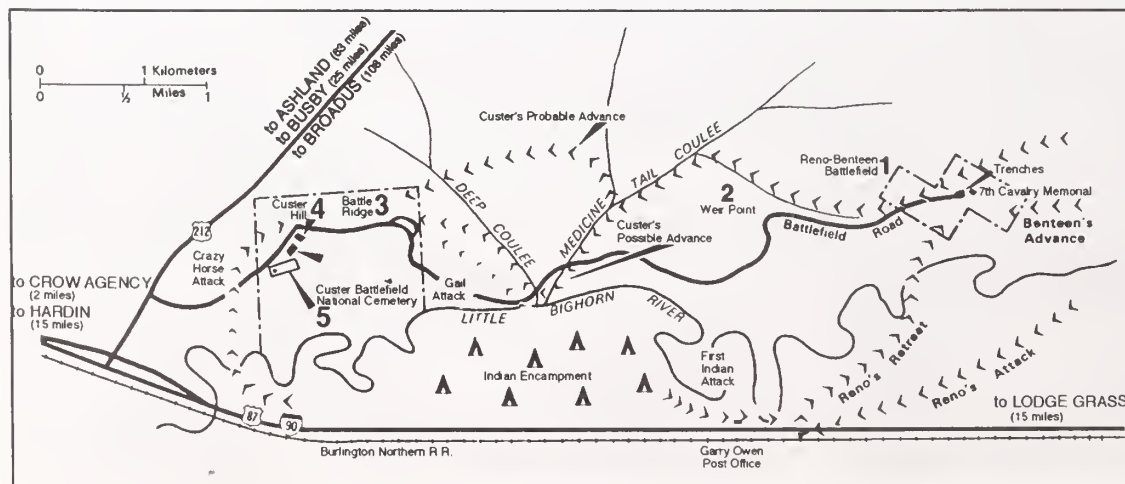
- Battle of Little Bighorn Talk
- Weapons and Tactics Talk
- Road to the Little Bighorn Talk
- Unveiling the Battle through Archaeology
- Plains Indian
- U.S. Cavalry

A complete time schedule of interpretive activities is available from the park headquarters at the battlefield or from information centers throughout Custer Country.

Since inclement weather and other factors may alter scheduling, no times are listed here. Visitors may check at the Visitor Center for times and places or call (406) 638-2621.

Located near Crow Agency, on Highway 212 (I-90 Exit 510), the Battlefield is just 15 miles east of Hardin.

NOTE: (Custer's Last Stand Re-Enactment is held at a location six miles west of Hardin, not at the battlefield.)



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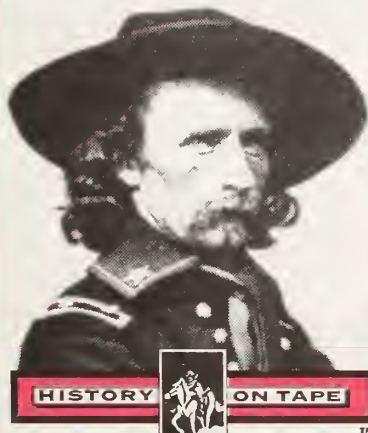
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Little Bighorn (formerly Custer) Battlefield National Monument memorializes one of the last armed efforts of the Northern Plains Indians to preserve their ancestral way of life. Here in the valley of the Little Bighorn River on June 25 and 26, 1876, more than 260 soldiers and attached personnel of the U.S. Army met defeat and death at the hands of several thousand Sioux and Cheyenne warriors. See page 70 for information concerning Battlefield hours and tours.

Dan Martinez Photo

Land of Legends & Beauty

Custer Country! It's a land that tells the story of one of the most famous battles between the Indian and the white man.

But more than that, around its historic center Custer Country is the traveler's and recreationist's discovery land.

For fishermen it's a paradise of variety. The famous Yellowstone River offers rainbow and brown trout, sauger, catfish, ling and even the live and fighting prehistoric paddlefish. Spectacular Bighorn Canyon Lake provides boating and waterskiing, then spills over the Yellowtail Dam to nurture the spawns of the Bighorn River, rated by many as the finest trout stream in the country. Fishing sites offer easy access to fishing on all rivers.

Pronghorn antelope, golden brown as the grasses they graze, are abundant in Custer Country. And from dusk to dawn the nocturnal whitetail and mule deer move from the river brushlands, from the draws and coulees to the grassy meadows.

Geology is both productive and aesthetic in Custer Country. One of the world's largest coal supplies lies just under the surface cover and offers the

fruit of its industry. Lewis and Clark's Expedition of 1804-1806 first recorded the unusual rock formations of the southeastern Montana region. From the rimrocks that frame the Billings valley, to Pompeys Pillar (a sandstone formation rising from "nowhere," named by and inscribed by Captain William Clark), to the beauty of the badlands of Glendive's Makoshika State Park, the geology offers a rewarding excursion through Custer Country.

Montana was full of dinosaurs. Many skeletons have been found in Custer Country. They pose for study at museums in Ekalaka, Glendive, and Miles City.

And where you see herds of cattle and sheep grazing and see horses running in the wind, you find cowboys and cowgirls holding rodeos and horse shows. Custer Country's calendar offers a full scale of events. Add to these the tradition and spectacle of the Crow and Cheyenne Indian events, and you have a true western vacation.

Custer Country is not lacking in comfort. In Billings the region is serviced by Logan International Airport with daily flights into and out of all major cities. Cultural events, art museums, enter-

tainment and nightlife make Custer Country a complete package holiday for the entire family.

—Gloria Wester



Montana Travel Photo by D. O'Looney



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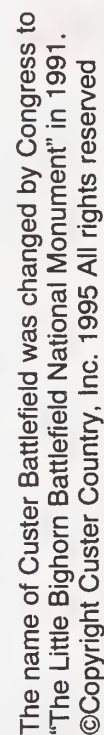
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- Custer's Last March
- Lewis & Clark Expedition
(Clark's Return Route)
- Nez Perce Indian Flight



Trails to Destiny

Custer's Last March

The most renowned historic site in all of Montana's Custer Country is the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument (formerly Custer Battlefield). The preserved battlefield, monument and cemetery are a lasting symbol of one of the most significant battles fought in the West. (A project is currently underway to add a monument to the Indians who fought.)

The battle has been referred to as "Custer's Last Stand," "Sitting Bull's War," and the "Sioux War of 1876."

To understand the circumstances responsible for this bloody clash of June 25, 1876, requires a detailed explanation of events. Many books have been written on the battle history. Others deal with the conjectures and philosophies that attempt to sort out the facts of the battle where all 210 cavalrymen died. Not one lived to tell the tale. In fact, only one of their horses, Comanche, survived. Because of the pressure of the government on their lifestyles, Indians involved in the battle refused to tell the details. For books or information, contact Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument Visitor Center, Crow Agency, MT 59022, phone (406) 638-2621.

The Indian Trail

An event on March 17, 1876, gave unmistakable notice to the Indians that the soldiers meant war if the Indians did not move onto the reservations. Under the com-

mand of Gen. George Crook, Col. Joseph J. Reynolds and six companies of cavalry attacked an Indian camp on the Powder River on that cold morning. The surprised Indians rallied and counterattacked. Reynolds fell back to the main column. Crook and his command returned to Fort Fetterman for two months.

The victorious Indian village consisted of about a hundred lodges of Oglalas, Miniconjous, and Cheyennes. After the soldiers withdrew, the warriors reclaimed their village and moved downstream, then over to the East Fork of the Little Powder River to unite with Crazy Horse.

The combined bands then set forth to find Sitting Bull, who was camped about 60 miles farther north on another branch of the Powder River. Little by little, as word of the war sped from one camp to another, the Indians came together for self-defense. In the spring, their kinsmen from the agencies joined them.

By early June they had reached a strength of about 400 lodges—about 3,000 people, including about 800 warriors.

On June 18 the Indians struck camp, journeyed down Reno Creek to the Little Bighorn, then turned south up the valley and pitched their teepees. Here, a short distance above the mouth of Reno Creek, they stayed six days. Other Indians joined them here, increasing their numbers to 1,000 lodges, 7,000 people, and 2,000 warriors.

Their need for food would foil battle tactics, for on June 24, though the tribal leaders had planned a movement farther up the Little Bighorn, when antelope were spotted, the Indian people moved the village northward, back down the Little Bighorn in the direction from which they had come. When the sun rose June 25, 1876, the Indians were closer than Custer expected to find them.



Sitting Bull, Leader of the Sioux
Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument Archives Photo

The Custer Trail

On May 17, 1876, about 956 officers and men of the U.S. army marched westward out of Fort Abraham Lincoln, south of what is now Mandan, North Dakota. They were under orders to subjugate Sioux and Cheyenne Indians who refused to stay within their reservations. The commander of the expedition was Gen. Alfred H. Terry. One of his staff officers was Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, a Civil War hero.

The troops entered present day Montana just south of where Wibaux is now located, and moved along the Yellowstone River to the mouth of the Tongue River, then progressed up the Yellowstone River to camp a few miles east of Rosebud Creek.

One column, led by Gen. George Crook, was attacked and forced to turn back at the six-hour Battle of the Rosebud on June 17. Maj. Marcus Reno



Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer
Little Bighorn Battlefield National
Monument Archives Photo

had been only 40 miles from the incident when it occurred. He carried the news back to Gen. Terry.

The other two columns, under Col. John Gibbon and Terry, joined on the Yellowstone River at the mouth of the Rosebud River. From here, Terry laid plans to locate the Indians, then believed to be in the Little Bighorn Valley. Bent over a map in the cabin of the Far West steamer, orders were formulated. Taking Gibbon's column up on the Yellowstone to approach the valley from the north, Terry sent Custer and the 7th Cavalry on a wide sweep to the south to approach it from the opposite direction. The strategy was to catch the Indians between the two forces.

Before setting out, the 7th Cavalry passed in review before their leaders: 31 officers, 566 enlisted men, 35 Indian scouts, a dozen packers, guides and other employees. Custer's mission was to march up the Rosebud following the Indian trail. If it turned to the Little Bighorn, he was still to continue up the Rosebud before swinging west to the upper reaches of the Little Bighorn.

His troops covered 12 miles the afternoon of the first day, 30 miles each of the next two days. A marker between Colstrip and Lane Deer points out one of the encampments. On June 23 they struck an Indian trail that Major Reno had already examined. On the morning of the 24th, they paused at the site where the Sioux had staged a sun dance earlier in the month. Suddenly the trail turned fresh. The scouts said the Indians were as near as 20 miles.

At the noon stop, scouting reports said that the Indians were on the lower

Little Bighorn. Custer decided to cut across there to get the Sioux before they scattered and got away. His troops marched out at midnight. Early the next morning, two parties of Sioux were spotted. Fearing that they would warn and disperse the Indians, Custer decided to strike as soon as possible. Five troops went with him, three each with Reno and Capt. Frederick Benteen.

The movements of the Custer, Reno, and Benteen commands are well detailed at the national monument Visitor Center and in the official "Little Bighorn Battlefield" National Park Handbook.

When the dust settled on June 25, Custer's 210 cavalymen had died. Reno and Benteen's troops fought on, east of the last stand site.

On June 27 the Far West anchored at the confluence of the Little Bighorn and the Bighorn Rivers near present day Hardin. On the 28th, the survivors of the Reno/Benteen troops were taken to the steamer. On the 30th, they started down river with the survivors and Capt. Keogh's horse, Comanche.

Near present day Terry, MT is one of Custer's campsites, where his troops carved their names on Sheridan Butte along the Yellowstone River. The names are still visible to adventurers who hike to see them. The Far West docked near Terry, and graves mark the Reno/Benteen troops who died of battle wounds and were buried when the steamer docked.

The Last Stand Re-Enactment is held each June in Hardin. (See page 81.)

The Nez Perce Trail

In 1877 a large group of non-treaty Nez Perce Indians passed through the Custer Country Region, led by Chief Joseph. They fought a pitched battle with the military, led by Col. Samuel D. Sturgis, in the hills north of Laurel, MT now known as the Canyon Creek Battlefield.

In their flight from northern Oregon toward asylum in Canada, the band of about 800 people, including 125 warriors, carried by 2,000 Appaloosa horses, traveled over 1,700 miles. They fled and fought skirmishes first east across Idaho, then south through Idaho, then across Yellowstone Park, east across a

corner of Wyoming, then up the Clark's Fork River. An eyewitness account by Andrew (Jack) Garcia, a civilian employee with Sturgis' command, quoted in the Laurel newspaper in 1937, states that the Nez Perce crossed the Yellowstone River on a ford above the mouth of the Clark's Fork, about where the present highway bridge crosses the stream.

The Indians, said Garcia, moved eastward after crossing the river and raided the stage station on the Bozeman Trail, near the mouth of Canyon Creek. The Indians then moved northwest, heading for the mouth of the canyon north of Laurel. The soldiers took an angling course from the river to intercept the Nez Perce before they reached the canyon. He said the battle began about 4:00 p.m. Using tactics that earned Chief Joseph the title of "Indian Napoleon," the warriors engaged the soldiers, allowing the main body to move to safety. At dark, the thousands of rounds of firing ceased, and the warriors took their people across country to the Musselshell River.

Following a skirmish at Cow Island on the Missouri River, Joseph moved his band to a camp thirty miles south of the Canadian border. The command of Generals Howard and Miles surrounded them there. On October 4, 1877, Chief Joseph gave his moving speech: "Hear me, my chiefs. I am tired. My heart is sick and sad. From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever."

A statue of the famous chief is in the park in downtown Laurel. A marker seven miles north of the town commemorates the Canyon Creek Battle.

Map and brochure available for a nominal fee from BLM, P.O. Box 940, Miles City, MT 59301.



Nez Perce Chief Joseph

Homeward Bound

The Story Of Clark's Return Along The Yellowstone River; Ending One Of America's Greatest Adventures— The Lewis & Clark Journey



The Lewis and Clark Expedition was one of the most daring adventures undertaken in "The New World."

Following the 1803 purchase of the Louisiana Territory from the French, President Thomas Jefferson was determined to have the vast western lands explored and documented.

As the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation states in a brochure, "Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, together with Sgts. Ordway, Gass and Floyd, and Private Whitehouse, recorded for posterity, the amazing chronicle of this great event in U.S. history.

"The recorded observations of these men during these years contributed vast new knowledge of theretofore unknown facts in many fields, including the physical and social sciences, and the arts.

"The Lewis and Clark Expedition literally spanned the North American continent, traversing areas which later would form many of our western states. By order of Congress, the lands of the newly acquired territory, and the watershed of the Columbia River claimed under discovery by Captain Robert Gray, were of paramount interest to the exploring party. The route from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean provided priceless documentation of lands, peoples and resources within the present states of Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon."

The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc. may be contacted by writing P.O. Box 3434, Great Falls, MT 59403. The non-profit organization accepts memberships and provides members with a quarterly publication,

"We Proceeded On."

Captain William Clark and his party explored the Yellowstone River. Lewis and the rest of the party had split from Clark's party on July 3, 1806 at present day Missoula to explore what is now northern Montana. Nine of the men went in Clark's party. Also accompanying them were interpreter, Touissant Charbonneau, his wife Sacajawea, their baby Jean Baptiste, (whom Clark called Pomp, an Indian word for "chief").

The Lewis and Clark Journals chronicle many exciting events in the Custer Country region, from the Park City-Laurel area to the Glendive region.

From the Three Forks area, where they camped July 13, to the Park City area, which they reached on July 19, the expedition had difficulty finding cottonwoods large enough to be made into canoes. They were traveling overland with 49 horses. Along this stretch, Private George Gibson fell on a burned snag that went "nearly two inches into the Muskeler part of his thy," according to Clark's journal entry. Then, while Charbonneau was chasing a buffalo, his horse stepped into a badger hole, throwing the guide over the horse's head and he was "a good deel brused on his hip sholder & face." The party also encountered "emence swarms of Grasshoppers..." Further, Indian smoke signals had been seen that were interpreted as "takeing us to be their Enemy made this signal for other bands to be on their guard."

However, game was abundant. Chokecherry wood was found for axe handles, and, eventually, near Park City, two suitable cottonwoods were found for canoes.

On the morning of July 21, the intent of the smoke signals was discovered. Twenty-four of the horses had been

stolen in the night. The remaining horses were troublesome, since they insisted on chasing every buffalo encountered, as their original owners, Indians, had taught them to do.

On July 23 the canoes were ready. Clark and the rest lashed the two canoes together and headed down river. Three men took the remaining 25 horses overland. July 24 they floated past where the Clark Fork River flows into the Yellowstone River near Laurel, a place the Indians called "The lodge where all dance." Indeed, a large council lodge 60 feet in diameter had been built on an island there.

Just west of present day Billings, at the mouth of Canyon Creek, the horse party met Clark and the others, and they crossed the men and horses to the south bank of the Yellowstone. They camped east of Billings near the mouth of Pryor Creek.

On July 25, the party noticed a huge sandstone rock not far from the river. Clark climbed it and saw "Emence herds of Buffalows, Elk and wolves." Indian pictographs were on the rock, and to them he added his name and the date: Wm. Clark, July 25, 1806. He named the rock Pompey's Tower (now called Pompeys Pillar) after Sacajawea's baby.

At the mouth of the Bighorn River, their July 26 camp, the group was kept awake by the bellowing of the buffalo bulls.

Castle Rock, near present Forsyth, where the party camped the 27th, was noted in the journals. On the 28th, floating past Rosebud, Porcupine, and other creeks, the notable entry of the day was "The elk on the bank of the river were so abundant that we have not been out of sight of them today." The Indians, in fact, called the Yellowstone River the

"Elk River," because of the herds.

On July 29, near present day Miles City, Clark commented on "coal in great quantities" in the hills. On July 30, after one of the most difficult river navigations of what are present day Buffalo Rapids and Bear Rapids, the party came upon the Glendive Makoshika badlands, which Clark described as "birnt hills."

On July 31, 1806, they camped near present Glendive and recorded seeing a grizzly bear, "the largest I ever saw." It was eating a buffalo.

August 1 was rainy and windy. Clark reported that thousands of buffalo were crossing the river ahead of the canoes "as thick as they could swim." The herd was a quarter mile wide and took an hour and fifteen minutes to cross the river. After they set camp at present Savage (near Sidney) two more herds, just as big as the first, crossed the river.

By August 2, they reached the Missouri River, and would soon rejoin Lewis and his party.

On their journey through what would become Custer Country, Clark recorded what has become one of the most interesting historic trails in the world. Watch for signs that point out the trail and details of their journey as you travel where these brave, early explorers traveled nearly 200 years ago.

(Much of the material for this article was taken from a 1987 issue of Hoofprints magazine. The article, "Clark on the Yellowstone," was written by John Willard, a member of the Lewis and Clark Trail Foundation and well known Billings area historian.)

Pompeys Pillar

Pompeys Pillar is one of the most famous sandstone buttes in the United States. It bears the only remaining physical evidence along the trail of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. On the face of the 150 foot butte, Captain William Clark carved his name in 1806 on the return route of the expedition.

He named the pillar in honor of Baptiste, the small son of Sacajawea, the famous Indian woman who served as interpreter, along with her guide husband Charbonneau, on the historic journey. The boy had been nicknamed "Pomp," a Shoshone Indian name for "chief," thus—Pompeys Pillar.

Native Americans called the pillar "the place where the mountain lion



J. K. Ralston painting of Pompeys Pillar courtesy US of Bureau of Land Management

lies." Some visitors think that a sandstone formation that is a part of the pillar which resembles a mountain lion's head is the reason for the name. Another theory is born out of the fact that live mountain lions have been spotted in the area.

In November, 1991, through the efforts of the Committee for the Preservation of Pompeys Pillar, the national landmark and surrounding land were purchased from a private owner by the Bureau of Land Management.

The scene above is a J. K. Ralston painting. Three paintings, other artwork, and a Lewis and Clark Trails historical library were also donated to the public by the private owners as a part of the transaction.

The view of the signature will be open to the public from Memorial Day to Labor Day, 1995. BLM staff members and Pompeys Pillar Association volunteers operate the attraction.

A boardwalk leads to Clark's signature and to the top of the pillar. Trails lead visitors past wild game antlers and Lewis and Clark canoe replicas down to a view of the river. It is easy to see why Clark's journals talk of the strong currents and dangers of the Yellowstone River. Though it looks broad and tame near the pillar, undercurrents and channels can prove a strong foe.

Birds and other wildlife are abundant in the area. Buffalo berries and other native vegetation may be identified.

Long term planning for the area is in progress. Comments are welcome and should be directed to: BLM Pompeys Pillar, 810 East Main, Billings, MT 59105, Phone (406) 657-6262.



"I marked my name and the day of the month and year," wrote Captain William Clark in his journal. Sacajawea, her baby "Pomp," and another member of the exploration party watch him carve in this J.K. Ralston sketch.

Courtesy of US Bureau of Land Management

Was There a 'Last Stand'?

Custer's last battle has succeeded in capturing American fancy like few other clashes in history.

On June 25, 1876 along the banks of the Little Bighorn River, Crazy Horse, Lamé White Man, Gall and their people achieved their greatest victory.

Now, nearly 120 years have gone by — enough time for a myriad of explanations to surface. Most take a familiar tack. On a lonely hill, the cavalrymen fought against all odds to the last man — that man often thought to be Custer himself — and to the last bullet.

Now, a new interpretation challenges the "last stand" image, exposing it as myth. Custer did not meet warrior masses at the village, and in fact, the village was nearly empty. When Custer arrived, warriors had rushed to meet Reno's attack, and non-combatants had fled down the valley. These fugitives were the magnet which drew Custer from the village, farther down the valley and ultimately back to the ridge where he died.

The new interpretation relies heavily on the history beneath our feet — the artifacts of battle exposed and made intelligible through archaeology. A range fire in August of 1983 laid the battlefield bare, allowing a close examination of the ground. Subsequent archaeological work in 1984, 1985, 1989, and 1994 has led to exciting new perspectives about what happened. They are recounted in detail in "Archaeology History, and Custer's Last Battle," a book by Richard A. Fox, a member of the archaeological team.

"We examined Custer's field systematically, using metal detectors, finding and recording the precise locations of artifacts from many types," says Fox.

He explains that when a gun's firing pin contacts a cartridge, a mark unique

to that gun is left on its base. So all casings with the same mark, called a signature, came from the same gun. Identical signatures at various locations track a gun's positions and movements, hence that of an individual.

Signatures on casings from soldiers' carbines indicated that a single company formed skirmish lines, two of them, one after the other. The skirmishing patterns demonstrate not only stability among the ranks, but an offensive posture, since a heavily pressured battalion

and while on the offensive.

Many Indian eyewitness accounts agree. Runs the Enemy, a Sioux, described how some soldiers skirmished lightly with warriors for awhile, but when attacked, lost composure and fled northward. He said it was like a stampede of buffalo, chronicles Fox in his book.

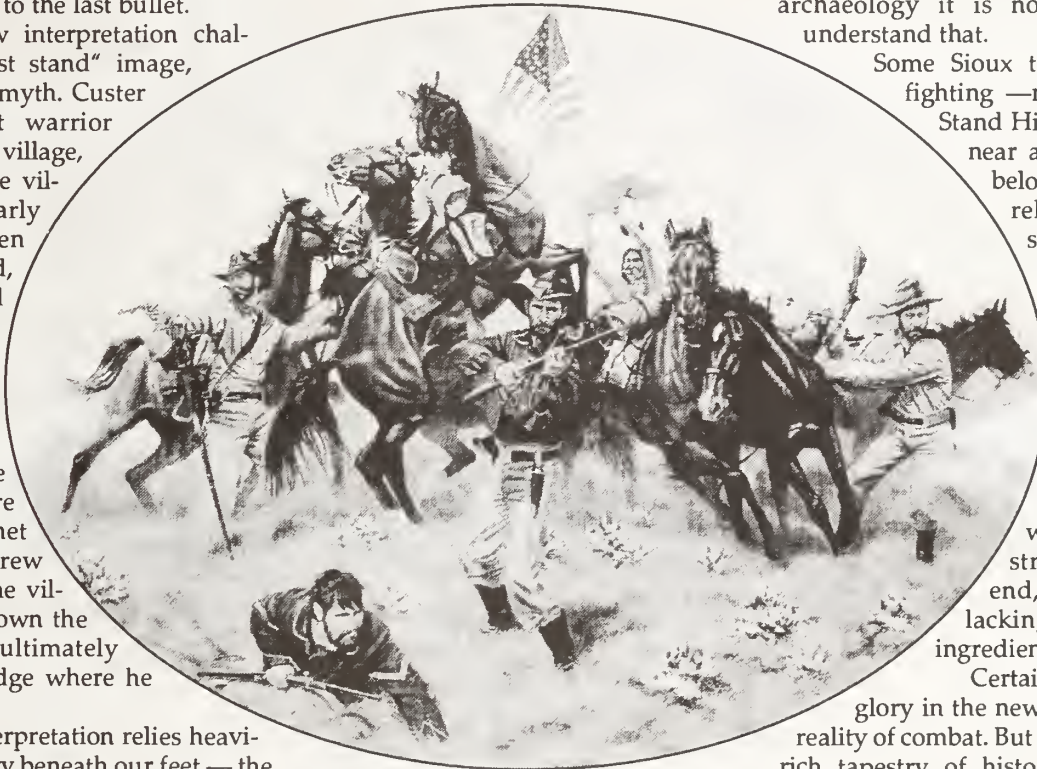
Custer's soldiers, like countless others from eras before and after, fell victim to the psychological effects of extreme combat: fear and panic. With archaeology it is now possible to understand that.

Some Sioux told of the last fighting —not on the Last Stand Hill — but in and near a rugged ravine below. There, they related, the last soldiers were dispatched as they attempted to flee or hide. "The Indian version rings true. There was no last stand," Fox surmises. "It was a desperate struggle at the end, a grim scene lacking the heroic ingredients of myth."

Certainly there is no glory in the new story, as in the reality of combat. But clothed with the rich tapestry of history, archaeology has moved us a step closer to reality. "Together, the two disciplines have furnished a historical understanding of Custer's last battle far more satisfying than could either alone," affirms the author.

Richard A. Fox, PhD is Associate Professor of Anthropology in the Dept. of Anthropology at the University of South Dakota. His book is available at book stores in the Custer Country tourism region.

Print by Ralph Heinz, "With Their Backs to the Wall," courtesy of Custer Battlefield Preservation Committee, Inc.



ion on the defensive presumably would have formed multiple skirmish lines, probably five. They were not found elsewhere on the battlefield.

"Near the skirmish area, we unearthed a cluster of casings with unique signatures, telling of a common behavior during heightened duress," relates Fox. "Military strategists call it 'bunching'. The cluster indicates soldiers from the skirmish line began to lose stability and crowd together. Several signatures in the cluster were found in another battle sector where over 70 soldiers died in disorder and with little resistance, according to the archaeology." The findings suggest Custer's command collapsed suddenly

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Where Legends Live



A realistic display of Indian culture is part of Little Big Horn Days Weekend

Craig A. Warren Photo



Hardin

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Hardin is the heart of Custer Country. Custer meets his demise here every year. Civilized fun and comforts include a pioneer museum, an art gallery, trading posts, a variety of interesting shops, a kiddie playground, an indoor swimming pool and exercise rooms, and a golf course.

Motels, campgrounds and restaurants will keep you comfortable while you explore the Little Bighorn Battlefield and Custer National Cemetery, Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, Yellowtail Dam, and the Bighorn River.

Besides being the home of Custer's Last Stand Re-Enactment and Little Big Horn Days, Hardin has other events from rodeos and parades to street dances, from art and craft shows to quilt shows. See the calendar of events

in this section, or call the Chamber of Commerce office for details (406) 665-1672.

Historians say the town was named for Samuel H. Hardin, a cattle man from Wyoming who leased tracts of land on the Crow Reservation to range his cattle. Local industry now includes farming and ranching, surface coal mining, fishing and recreational opportunities.

You'll see sugar beets, corn, wheat, and barley in the fields. The raising of beef cattle, sheep, hogs, and quarter horses is part of the livestock economic picture.

Western Experiences

Hardin and the surrounding area offer western experiences involving history and horses.

A special camp imparts cavalry train-

ing and the chance to participate in the Custer's Last Stand Re-Enactment. Wagon train rides and horseback riding and trail rides can be arranged by appointment.

Team roping events are held often at local ranches and at rodeos. And there are dude ranches which offer horseback riding, fishing, local tours and sightseeing.

History Comes to Life

Custer's Last Stand Re-Enactment, June 23-25, 1995 is part of the Little Big Horn Days celebration of cultural heritage, held annually in Hardin— June 22-25 in 1995.

This year the Marines are coming to help Custer's Last Stand!

The First Marine Division Band from Camp Pendleton, CA. will play June 22 at the Military Ball, a new addition to the activities this year. They will play in the "Outlaws of the West" parade at 10 a.m. June 24 and at each show at the re-enactment site.

The four-day festival features a PRCA Rodeo, as well as a radio variety show, military ball, carnival, downtown parade, street dance, antique show, arts and crafts demonstrations, country breakfast, gospel service, book fair, seminars and Scandinavian feed. Many events are free, and the country-style meals are moderately priced with families in mind.

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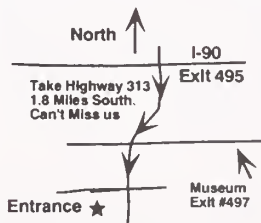
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You can join the "U.S. Cavalry" and ride the route that Custer rode when you sign on with the Davis Creek Camp Company of Sarpy, MT. Here, Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer (Steve Alexander of Jackson, MI) is flanked by cavalry riders who have been members of the cavalry.

Phil Whitlow/Davis Creek Camp Photo

Last Stand Re-Enactment

Custer's Last Stand Re-Enactment is listed as one of the "Top 100 Events in America" by Destinations Magazine.

Indeed, this, the most famous Indian-cavalry battle in history, is one of the biggest annual attractions in all of Custer Country. The battle took place 119 years ago on June 25, 1876.

Held six miles west of Hardin, the performances of Custer's Last Stand Re-Enactment are set for 1:30 and 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, June 23-24, and for 1:30 p.m. only on Sunday, June 25. This is the 119th anniversary of the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$6 for children 6-12 (five and under free).

To order tickets, call the Hardin Area Chamber of Commerce at (406) 665-1672 or write to the chamber at 219 North Center Ave., Hardin, MT 59034. Group rates for tickets purchased before June 15 may be negotiated.

In this vivid, hour-long spectacle, authentic Indian narration re-creates the background of General Custer's mission to drive the Sioux and Cheyenne to reservations, a mission that climaxes in a furious encounter near the original battle site.

The cast of 300 includes descendants of both the Indian scouts who rode with Custer and the homesteaders who settled the Montana plains. Steve Alexander, one of the country's fore-

most experts on Custer history, plays Custer. Besides the historic knowledge he bears, he has a close physical resemblance to Custer.

Is Custer's last stand a myth?

find out what
archaeology
says about
Custer's last
battle



Tour the Little Bighorn Battlefield with archaeologist Richard Fox's self-guiding auto-tour on tape. Plug it into your car stereo and follow along as you drive through the battlefield. Music and sounds bring the battle to life as Dr. Fox explains what archaeology and history reveal about Custer's last battle.

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Richard Fox

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One of the 11,000-plus visitors at last year's re-enactment stated, "It's like really being there—smack dab in the middle of history." *You* can be there, too!

Little Big Horn Days

The Little Big Horn Days third annual professional rodeo is a PRCA sanctioned event, with stock provided by Powder River Rodeo Productions. Specialty acts, Indian relay races and clowns will be featured.

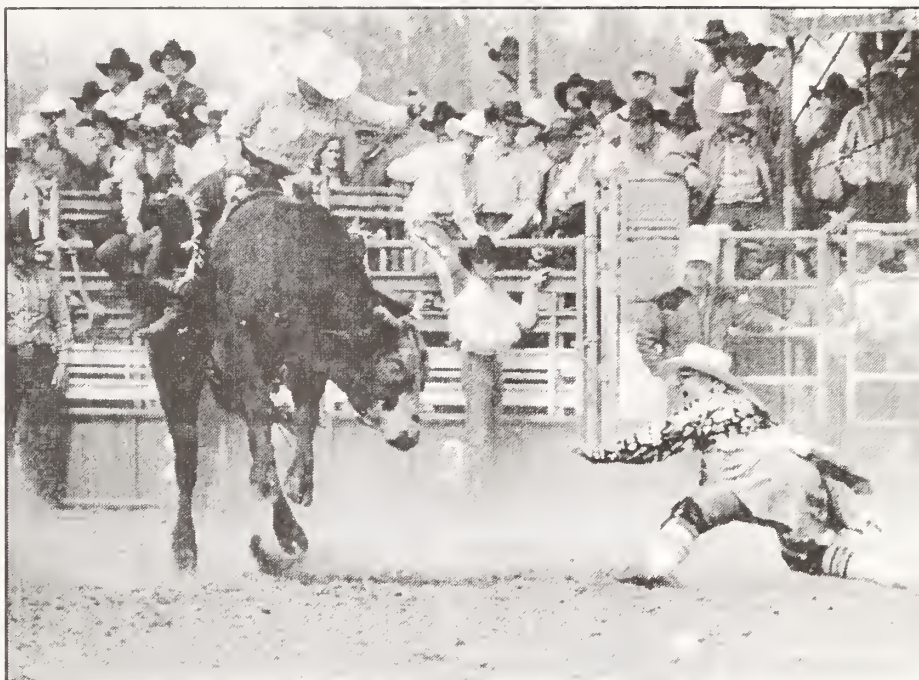
The rodeo will be June 23-24 at 8:00 p.m. at the Big Horn County Fairgrounds (south end of Center Ave. across the tracks).

Tickets for the rodeo on Friday and Saturday nights are \$7 for adults and \$4 for children 6-12 (five and under free). Family prices are \$20 for two adults and two children, \$25 for three adults and two children. PRCA Rodeos draw top contenders in the sport of the West.

All events set for Thursday, June 22 kick off at 7:00 p.m. with "At Home on the Range," a radio variety show, created by local writers.

The Mountain Carousel Carnival runs from noon until midnight Thursday, and continues throughout the weekend.

Sellers offer wares downtown at a



A PRCA rodeo is an exciting part of Little Big Horn Days activities.

Joe Howard Photo

historical book fair, an arts and crafts fair, and antique show, Friday through Sunday.

The Little Bighorn Symposium is 9-4 Friday at the Middle School Auditorium.

Organizers invite all youngsters to participate in the Old West Youth Parade downtown at 11 a.m., on Friday, followed by a hot dog lunch at the fairgrounds. Youth games, activities, prizes, and farm pet exhibits fol-

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low downtown and at the fairgrounds.

The parade is complete with Cavalry and Indians in full regalia on Saturday, June 24 at 10 a.m. "Outlaws of the West" is the theme of the stream of floats, bands and riders. Vendor booths downtown include food concessions. Following the parade, everyone is welcome at the Scandinavian feed at the American Lutheran Church until 7 p.m. A fee is charged.

Wake up to a Country Breakfast on Sunday at the Big Horn County Museum. A non-denominational old time gospel service will be held at 11 a.m. at the museum's restored church.

Except for the re-enactment, most events will be held in the town of Hardin or at the Big Horn County Museum, 1 mile east of Hardin. The re-enactment is at a site six miles west of Hardin, just off the Old Hardin Road, Highway 87.

Jail House Gallery

The Jail House Gallery located at 219 North Center in Hardin, features monthly rotated exhibits of both regional and statewide shows, as well as a gift shop. The gallery is open year-round, Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

The Undercover Gals quilt guild of Hardin presents its 13th annual quilt show at the gallery September 5-15 in 1995. This is an open show featuring an antique quilt section and a challenge quilt contest. Quilt enthusiasts may write to: Quilts, Box 508, Hardin, MT 59034 for information.

Museum And Visitor Center

Directly off I-90 Exit 497, or Exit 495 and then through town, is the Big Horn



Garrett and Matthew give a "thumbs up" to Hardin's Kids World Playground at Hardin Primary School, 314 West 3rd, which is open year round. Many areas in Hardin have been designed with low-cost activities for families in mind.

Edythe McCleary Photo

County Historical Museum village. To their visitors, the museum staff and volunteers offer a cool, quiet stop, complete with interpretive displays of the area's past. There is no charge to view the museum or to use the picnic area.

Sit down and relax in the museum while you watch your choice of videos about area attractions. The state information center links you with travel information.

The museum displays a complete selection of informational brochures and pamphlets about attractions throughout Montana and bordering states. The people who greet you are happy to give you personal insight into attractions in the area. Books pertaining to the area's history are for sale, as are other western gift and souvenir items.

The displays concentrate on telling the story of Big Horn County. Surrounding the grassy, shady picnic area are buildings brought to the grounds and restored to their early-day best. Included are a schoolhouse, a farmhouse, a log cabin, a church, a doctor's office building, a blacksmith shop, a barn, a service station and a train depot. The old Corinth Store and Post Office looks like the proprietor just stepped out. The new Custer Stage Station is a Fort Custer cavalry barn replica.

Would you ride in the stagecoach on display that ran from Fort Custer in 1880 to Rock Creek, Wyoming? Have a look.

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Represented are portraits of Lt. Col. Custer, family members who perished at his side and officers who were associated with The Campaign. Also captured are images of Custer's Crow Scouts and many of the great War Chiefs who were victorious at The Little Bighorn.

A complete description will accompany each print in the form of a scroll. Prints will be signed and numbered by the artist and will include a Certificate of Authenticity and Title.

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"Next to Bob's Interstate Service"



The Big Horn County Museum village is a hands-on recording of the history of the West. Its buildings, displays and picnic grounds offer a relaxing spot to spend a couple of hours. Occasionally, church services are held on Sunday during the summer.

Donna Delp Photo

French explorers, were the first white men to visit the Bighorn River country. They met a tribe of Indians they named the "Beaux Hommes" (Handsome Men). These were the Crow Indians. The place of this first meeting (rendezvous) was on the Bighorn River, near what is now Hardin, Montana.

Far West Was Here

Within a stone's throw of the Rendezvous site, just east of Hardin, where the Little Bighorn River joins the Bighorn, is the island site where the Far West sternwheeler packet anchored on June 27, 1876, to evacuate the wounded

from the Reno and Benteen battles, part of the Battle of the Little Bighorn. It was the Far West which carried survivors with the story of Custer's defeat to the world.

These businesses and individuals support tourism in the Hardin area of Custer Country:

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1995 in Hardin

June: Tractor Power Pull 10-11
 Walleye Tournament 10-11
 Deb Wobig Memorial Rodeo.....18-19
 Quilts in the Library.....15
 through July 15
 Military Ball.....22
 Little Big Horn Days..... 22-25
 Little Big Horn Days Rodeo 23-24
 Custer's Last Stand
 Re-Enactment 23-25
 July: Amateur Rodeo,
 Talent Show & Fireworks.....4
 Hardin Youth Fair.....July 31-Aug. 6
 Aug: Crow Fair at Crow Agency..17-21
 Country Fun Day, Run and Walk 27
 Sept: Undercover Gal's Quilt Show 5-15

Arapooish Pond and Recreation Park

The new Arapooish Pond and Recreation Park is located one mile north of Hardin Exit 495 off Highway 47. The park is at the Arapooish Fishing Access near the Bighorn River.

A six foot wide trail is an inviting path for hikers or cross country skiers. Designed to be a spot for families, picnic tables and self-contained bathrooms have been installed. Alcohol is prohibited.

A road allows driving to the picnic tables. But the competition of motor-

ized vehicles stops there, because no motorized vehicles may invade the north side of the pond.

Fishermen in non-motorized boats or canoes will like the small-mouth bass action, which should be good in summer and in winter, since aerators have

been installed to keep the pond from freezing.

Summer hours are early morning to 9 p.m. Overnight camping is not allowed. In winter responsible parties may contact the county agent for a key. Call the county courthouse.



Performing the rites of victory, these women and children acting out the "Last Stand" clash, will take the soldier's weapons and clothes and leave him defenseless against warriors in after-life.

Phil Whitlow/Davis Creek Camp Photo

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The Becker Hotel on Hardin's Center Avenue was one of ten first permanent buildings in Hardin. Not presently in use as a hotel, the Becker is in the heart of Hardin's historic district. It houses the Family Bookhouse and Leprechaun Shop.

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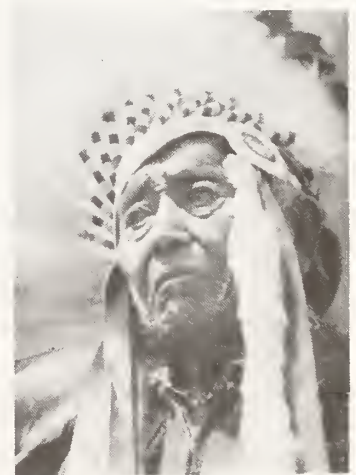
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There is a saying, "God does not deduct from one's life the days spent fishing." The Bighorn River is a blue ribbon trout stream, known the world over. Besides the great fly fishing action the river provides, it is a river of serenity. The brushy banks offer a beautiful setting under Montana's big blue sky. Buffalo berries and other native vegetation grow along its banks.

Karen Simpson Photo

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The Bighorn River, flowing for nearly 50 miles between Fort Smith and Hardin, is the crown jewel in the treasure of Montana trout waters. Since the completion of the Yellowtail Dam in 1965, the Bighorn has become a blue-ribbon fishing stream that attracts the experienced angler looking for that extra challenge, but is also a river for the family fisherman. Water conditions below the Afterbay Dam are ideal for trout. Brown trout are the most abundant with rainbow trout also present.

Bighorn Lake, created by Yellowtail Dam, offers spectacular scenery, excellent walleye fishing, camping, and water skiing. Ok-A-Beh Marina is the gateway to the area. Boat rentals, gas, groceries, and concessions are available there.

Information on limits, regulations, and fishing conditions is available at the various guide services and boat rentals in Hardin, St. Xavier, and at the Fort Smith Visitor Center.

St. Xavier

Just a stone's throw from the Bighorn River and 20 miles from Yellowtail Dam, is St. Xavier. Fr. Peter Paul Prondo, a Jesuit Priest, established the first mission at St. Xavier in 1887. The church is still in use and the school also continues to operate.



Rhoda Blakley, co-owner of Cottonwood Camp north of Fort Smith, displays this 27-1/2 inch, 8 pound rainbow beauty she caught and released on the Bighorn River.

Alvin Blakley Photo

Boating

*Boaters' guide for safe recreation
on Custer Country's lakes and streams*

One of the most important requirements for any watercraft is a life jacket or personal flotation device (PFD). A life jacket must be carried for each person on board. Children under the age of 12 are required to wear (securely fastened to the body) a life jacket at all times while a craft less than 26 feet in length is in motion. For the protection of boaters, Montana requires safety equipment: fire extinguisher, flame arrester, ventilation system, sound producing device, personal flotation device, and lights at night.

Boats on Montana waters must be registered. Properly registered boats from other states, which will not be in Montana for more than 90 consecutive days, are exempt from registration and taxation. Motor boats from other countries may be used on Montana waters temporarily without Montana registration. A boat is registered at the Treasurer's Office in the county of principal use after 90 days. The fee in

lieu of tax varies with the length and type of vessel. An additional \$2.50 registration fee is charged. All motorboats, sailboats 12 feet or longer and other personal watercraft need a Hull Identification Number (HIN), which must be engraved on the hull of the craft. Boats built prior to 1972 will not have a HIN number and can have one issued by the Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Young people, 13 and 14 years old, must possess a Montana motorboat operator's certificate when an adult is not on board, to operate a motorboat or other watercraft with a motor of greater than 10 horsepower. A home-study course for the certificate is available from Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 1420 E. 6th Ave., Helena, MT 59620, or call (406) 444-2615. The test, work booklet and registration card must be returned to the Helena office for grading. Certificates will be mailed to those successfully completing the course.



Fort Smith

Bighorn Fishing Headquarters

The Bighorn River trout await the angler reaching Fort Smith, Montana, by way of Highway 313. Fort Smith provides most services needed by visitors and fishermen. A visitor center operated by the National Park Service is located at Fort Smith, and provides information on all recreational activities as well as films, books, and programs on the history of the recreation area.

Fort C.F. Smith Site

Fort C.F. Smith was established on August 12, 1866, to protect immigrants traveling on the Bozeman Trail from attacks by the Sioux Indians. The Bozeman Trail crossed the Bighorn River 400 yards from the fort.

Located near the present town of Fort Smith, all that remains of the site are

low mounds and interesting stories. The site is on private land and visitors may see it if accompanied by a park ranger when one is available. Prior arrangements must be made at the Fort Smith Visitor Center.



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Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area is a spectacular 71 mile long lake that straddles the Montana-Wyoming state line. Bighorn Lake may be reached from Hardin, MT via Montana Highway 313, or on the south end from Lovell, WY, by Wyoming State Highway 37.

Donna Delp Photo

The Canyon

Bighorn Canyon Offers Unmatched Recreation

Yellowtail Dam rises 525 feet between the rugged walls of Bighorn Canyon, and spans 1,480 feet along its crest. This tall, variable-thickness, arch-type dam backs up the water of Bighorn Lake for 71 miles. The reservoir was developed to provide generation of power, irrigation, recreation, fishery enhancement, sediment retention,*municipal and indus-

trial water and flood control.

And the fishing and recreation are outstanding!

Bighorn Canyon offers year-round fishing opportunities. Walleye, rainbow and brown trout, yellow perch, ling, crappie, and catfish are among the usual catches. Fishing regulations and limits follow state laws and fishing license regulations. Winter ice fishing is

popular with ling, walleye and trout commonly caught.

Water conditions below the Afterbay Dam are ideal for trout, and this portion of the Bighorn River has developed into a blue ribbon trout fishery. Brown trout are the most abundant with rainbow trout also present. Information on limits, regulations, and fishing conditions are available at the Fort Smith Visitor Center. Guide services, boat rentals, vehicle shuttle service, food and equipment are available in Fort Smith. Float distance from the Afterbay Dam to 3-Mile (Lind) Access is 3 miles. The distance from 3-Mile Access to the Bighorn Access is 10 miles.

Limited boat tours (as available), hiking trails, camping, scenic drives, and ranger-led activities are also offered in the Fort Smith, Yellowtail Dam area.

Self-guided tours of two to three hours, half-day, full-day, and more than a day, have been designed. Forty-five minute campfire programs about wildlife, Crow Indian culture, geology, and park-related subjects are offered. Also, a walking historic tour of the Fort Smith site is offered with prior arrangements. Other special demonstrations and programs are offered throughout the summer.

Camping at Bighorn Canyon is available in a variety of environments in designated areas. Call the National Park Service for more information about all of the above, (406) 666-2412.

Available at Ok-A-Beh Marina are boat rentals, food concessions, gas, ice, gifts and boating and fishing supplies. Call (406) 665-2216 for boat rental reservations and information.

The Fort Smith Visitor Center, located at Highway 313 and Afterbay Road in Fort Smith is open daily from 9 to 5, March 1 to May 3; 9 to 6 June 1 to August 31; and 9 to 5 September to mid-December. It is open 10 to 4:30 the remainder of the year (closed on federal holidays Oct. to Feb.) Information about the area is displayed through exhibits, printed materials, and the film, "Land of the Bighorn." To receive detailed informational materials write: Fort Smith Visitor Center, Box 458, Fort Smith, MT 59035, or call (406) 666-2339.

The Yellowtail Dam Visitor Center is operated by the Bureau of Reclamation. It is open daily 9 to 6, Memorial Day through Labor Day. It is located at the end of Highway 313 at Yellowtail Dam. For information, call (406) 666-2443.

Some For The Record Book

Five record-size fish were caught in Montana's waters in 1993: black bullhead 1.95 lb.; sauger 8.28 lb.; golden trout 4.9 lb.; tiger muskellunge 18.64 lb.; and bigmouth buffalo 53 lb. 8 oz.

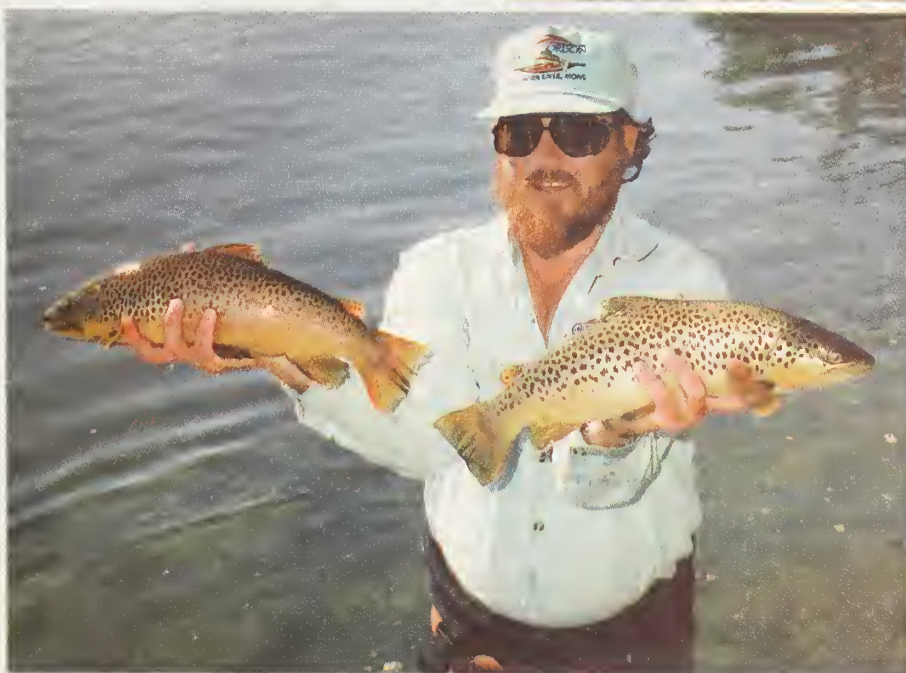
Following are the record fish caught in the Custer Country tourism region of the state: black crappie, 3 lb. 2 oz., by Al Elser, 1973, Tongue River Reservoir; blue sucker, 11.46 lb., Doug Askin, 1989, Yellowstone River near Miles City; green sunfish 0.56 lb., Roger Fliger, 1991, Castle Rock Reservoir; northern pike, 37 lb. 8 oz., Lance Moyler, 1972, Tongue River Reservoir; paddlefish, 142 lb. 8 oz., Larry Branstetter, 1973, Missouri River; river carpsucker 3.50 lb., James Jessen, 1991, Yellowstone River near Terry; rock bass, .57 lb., Don Holzheimer, 1989, Tongue River Reservoir; shovelnose sturgeon, 13.72 lb., Sidney L. Storm, 1986, Missouri River; pallid sturgeon, 60 lb., Gene Sattler, 1979, Yellowstone River; white crappie, 2 lb. 7 oz., Edward Field, 1995, Tongue River Reservoir.

For a complete copy of Montana's record fish of all species, write to the Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 1420 East Sixth Ave., Helena, MT 59620.



Scott Warden, an outfitter on the Bighorn River, holds this rainbow just long enough for the camera lens to capture the vivid stripe that gives this species its name, then releases it back into the water.

Photo courtesy of Exodus Outfitters



Gordon Rose, owner of Quill Gordon guide service, holds two fish caught simultaneously out of the same boat by two of his Texas clients on the Bighorn River. Both fish were hooked on a fly called Gordy's Worm.

Photo courtesy of Quill Gordon

Maybe you are a fly fisherman who knows every cadis and streamer. Or perhaps you prefer lures, or maybe live bait. And then again, maybe you have never fished before in your life.

No matter what your category, plan on doing some fishing in Montana's Custer Country Region. Bring your own rod and tackle box, or let one of the abundant sporting goods shops outfit you.

Any fisherman has heard the fame of the Yellowstone and Bighorn Rivers. And the Bighorn Lake spawns beauties like the walleye shown on this page. There are numerous other rivers, streams, reservoirs and ponds throughout the area abundant with fish.

Variety is the name of the fishing game here. Nowhere else can you catch cutthroat (Montana's native), rainbow, brown, and brook trout; kokanee and coho salmon; walleye; sauger; whitefish; bass; catfish; ling; sturgeon; and the prehistoric paddlefish.

License and Regulation Information

Resident fishing licenses are \$13.00 plus a \$4 conservation license. Residents 12-14 and over 62 need only a conservation license to fish. All non-residents, 15 years and older will need a Montana fishing license. A nonresident of any age may purchase a non-resident fishing license and be entitled to take a legal limit of fish. A nonresident temporary fishing license, valid for two consecutive days, costs \$10. A season license is \$45. Nonresidents will need a \$5 conservation license besides the fishing license. The season runs from March 1 to February 28 (29). If you go paddlefish fishing, in addition to your fishing licenses, you will need to purchase a paddlefish tag. These are \$5 for residents and \$15 for nonresidents.

For complete information on regulations, limits, seasons, baits, etc., write: Fish, Wildlife and Parks Regional Headquarters, 2300 Lake Elmo Drive, Billings, MT 59105. Or write: Fish, Wildlife and Parks Regional Headquarters, Box 2004, Miles City, MT 59301.

Access Abounds

Fishing access sites, managed by the Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, are noted on the map on page 6 of this publication. Facilities at each vary somewhat. However, some are furnished with restrooms and most have camping and picnicking facilities.

Boat ramps are available at many locations. A float guide to the Yellowstone River, a publication called "Treasure of Gold," is available at the two FWP offices in Custer Country listed above. Also available from these offices is a fishing pond booklet for southeastern Montana, which is designed to help anglers find good farm and ranch ponds.

Please Ask First

Montana works hard to maintain a good sportsman/landowner relationship. What makes things run smoothly can be summed up in two words — "ask permission." The Montana Stream Access Law states that rivers and streams capable of recreational use may be so used by the public up to the ordinary high water marks. However, although Montana law gives sportsmen the right to pursue water-based recreational activities within the high water

marks of rivers and streams, it does not give recreationists the right to enter posted lands bordering those streams or to cross private lands to gain access to streams. You must ask permission first.

Also, sections 16 and 36 within each township of the state are designated as "State Land." A \$5 Recreational Use License is required to cross or use any state lands.

Angler's Heaven



Tom Brown of Laurel, MT, caught this 12-1/2 lb. walleye at Bighorn Canyon Reservoir. He used standard walleye tackle.

Chris Wester Photo

There's Blue Ribbon Fishing in Custer Country

Info

Books About Custer Country

Many Montana book publishers offer everything from the "Rocky Mountain Berry Book" to "Yellowstone on Fire" to "Bighorn Canyon" to "Digging Dinosaurs." The following publishers may be contacted for catalogs or for books, calendars or posters on specific subjects.

Four recent books of special interest include "Montana Bird Distribution," detailing bird sightings in the state through 1991 from Montana State Library, 1515 East Sixth Ave., Helena, MT 59620. The cost is \$7 including postage. "Versatile Trophy Hunter" by Bill Butler tells the stories of successful trophy hunts. "Next Year Country: a History of Eastern Montana" by Don Baker is available from book stores in the region. "The Rockhound's Guide to Montana" by Robert Feldman, distributed statewide by Falcon Press, sells for \$9.95.

Write to these publishing companies for catalogs of more titles on Montana topics:

American & World Geographic Publishing/Montana Magazine, P.O. Box 5630, 3020 Bozeman Street, Helena, MT 59604, phone (406) 443-2842 or 1-800-821-3874.

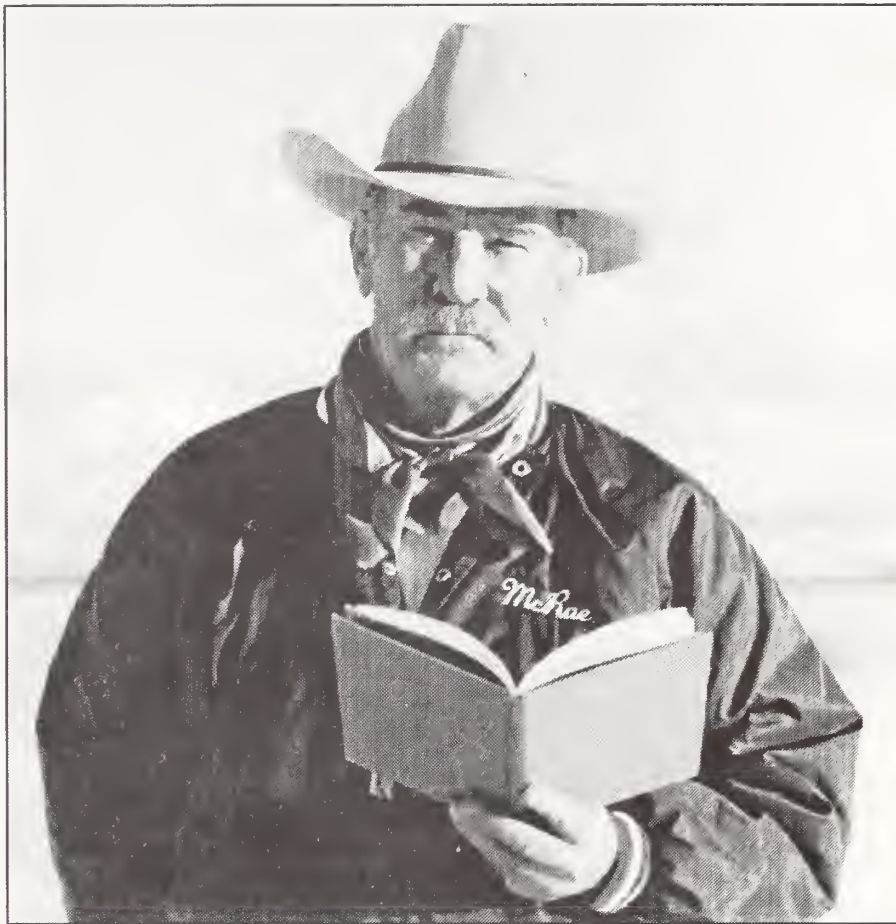
The Billings Gazette, 401 North Broadway, P.O. Box 31635, Billings, MT 59107-1635, phone (406) 657-1200.

Falcon Press, P.O. Box 1718, Helena, MT 59624, phone 1-800-582-2665.

Montana Historical Society, 225 North Roberts, Helena, MT 59620-9990, phone (406) 444-2694.

Mountain Press Publishing Company, 2016 Strand Ave., P.O. Box 2399, Missoula, MT 59806, phone 728-1900.

Stoney Dale Press Publishing Company, 205 Main Street, Drawer B, Stevensville, MT 59870, phone 777-2729.



One of Custer Country's renowned authors is cowboy poet, Wally McRae. He not only writes about the "salty cusses" who settled the West, but also gives live presentations of his poems. Books, tapes, and videos of McRae's writings and the works of other Montana authors are available in gift and book stores throughout the state.

Peter de Lory Photo

Trails

You will truly enjoy recreation every step of the way when you hike the many trails in Custer Country.

A Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks publication, titled "Take a Hike" is available by writing: Hiking, FWP, 1420 E. 6th St., Helena, MT 59620.

Trail walks are designated at Little Bighorn Battlefield where Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer's troops met the Teton Sioux and Cheyenne Indians.

Interpretive trails lead visitors through the details of the Reno-Benteen battle at Little Bighorn Battlefield.

The Ashland Ranger District of Custer National Forest has three riding and hiking areas that total about 40,000 acres—Cook Mountain, King Mountain, and Tongue River Breaks. The Pryor Mountains unit of the Beartooth Ranger District, south of Billings, offers excellent hiking, hunting, and snowmobiling. Sioux Ranger

District, in the southeast corner of Montana, has riding and hiking opportunities, also. National Forest maps are available at Forest Service offices in Ashland and Billings (see page 67).

Om-Ne-A Trail is a 3-mile trail, following the Bighorn Canyon rim from the Yellowtail Dam to the Ok-A-Beh boat ramp. The trail begins at the south end of the parking area at the dam.

Hiking trails are designated at Makoshika State Park in Glendive; at Medicine Rocks State Park, between Ekalaka and Baker; at Riverfront Park in Billings; and along most fishing access sites.

Enjoy exercising horses in the greenery along the banks of the Yellowstone River at Riverfront Park in Billings. Take I-90 Exit 447, then South Billings Blvd. There is plenty of room to park horse trailers. The equestrian trail is five miles long.

Local chambers are the best source for information on bicycle and mountain bike trails.



Custer Country's museums are rich in heritage and history.

Public Museums

Ashland, CHEYENNE INDIAN MUSEUM, off Hwy. 212 at St. Labre School, Indian artifacts and gallery. 8-4:30 daily in summer, weekdays in winter (406) 784-2200. Free

Baker, O'FALLON MUSEUM, 1st. St. W. and 10th, World's largest steer, homesteader items, early farm equipment, vintage clothing. Old jail building. Closed Mon. & Sat. (406) 778-3265 or 778-2092. Free.

Billings, P.B. MOSS MANSION, 914 Division St. Elegant turn-of-the century historic home. Guided tours. Open daily; seasonal hours. Admission. (406) 256-5100.

Billings, OSCAR'S DREAMLAND, off I-90, Exit 446, west on Frontage Rd., 1 mile S. of Market Basket. Historic town, largest collection of steam engines, antique vehicles, farm artifacts. 9-6 May-Oct. Admission. (406) 656-0966

Billings, WESTERN HERITAGE CENTER, 2822 Montana Ave. Regional museum presenting history and culture of the Yellowstone Valley. AAM accredited. Hrs. 10-5 Tues-Sat., 1-5 Sun. (406) 256-6809. Free.

Billings, PETER YEGEN YELLOWSTONE COUNTY MUSEUM. Near Logan International Airport. Old West, Indian artifacts. 10:30-5 M-F, 2-5 Sun. (406) 256-6811. Free.

Broadus, POWDER RIVER HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND VISITOR CENTER AND MAC'S MUSEUM, 102 W. Wilson. Western history, rodeo, and

Museums and Art Centers Preserve Custer Country Heritage

Photos: Left—Western Heritage Center features history all along the Yellowstone Valley. Below—Yucca Theater Museum, Hysham, Montana

activities. Indian artifacts, sea shells & displays 9-5 M-Sat., June-Sept. Free.

Broadus, WILDLIFE MUSEUM, Highway 212. Over 115 North American Specimens on display. 406-436-2538. Free.

Crow Agency, LITTLE BIGHORN BATTLEFIELD MUSEUM, (and Custer National Cemetery), Junction of Hwy. 212 and I-90, Exit 510. Battlefield artifacts, displays, tours, bookstore, cemetery. Summer 8-8, Spring/Fall 8-6, Winter 8-4:30. Park fee. (406) 638-2621.

Ekalaka, CARTER COUNTY MUSEUM. Prehistoric specimens, anatosaurus skeleton, and artifacts. Closed Mon. Free.

Forsyth, ROSEBUD COUNTY PIONEER MUSEUM. Main St. Collections from founding families, Indian beadwork, barbed wire, vintage clothing, machines. May 1-15 Daily 1-7; May 15-Sept. 15 Mon.-Sat. 9-7, Sun. 1-7. Free.

Glendive, FRONTIER GATEWAY MUSEUM. 1 mile E. of Glendive, Montana prehistory to present; homesteading. Open daily mid-May to mid-Sept. (406) 365-8168. Free.

Hardin, BIG HORN COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND STATE VISITOR CENTER. I-90, exit 497. Cultural exhibits, restored buildings, picnic area, gift shop. Winter Mon.-Sat. 9-5 Summer Daily 8-8. 665-1671. Free.

Huntley, HUNTLEY PROJECT MUSEUM OF IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE, 5,000 agriculture artifacts. At Osborn Park, 12 mi. west of Pompeys Pillar, 3 mi. east of Huntley on U.S. Hwy 312. Open summer. Free.

Hysham, TREASURE COUNTY MUSEUM, Main Street, Pioneer History. Open afternoons. Manning family collection and theater. Free.

Miles City, RANGE RIDERS MUSEUM & BERT CLARK GUN COLLECTION. US 10 & 12, W. of Miles City. Early range life; eastern Montana ranching history. April-Oct. 9-9. Admission. (406) 232-6146.

Pryor, CHIEF PLENTY COUPS MUSEUM. Crow culture. May 1-Sept. 30 10-5, Daily. Off season by appointment. Admission. (406) 252-1289.

Richey, RICHEY HISTORICAL MUSEUM. Local community history of pioneers in a 6-building complex. Open Memorial Day to Labor Day, M-W-F, 2-

5 and by appointment. Free.

Roundup, MUSSELSHELL VALLEY HISTORICAL MUSEUM. 524 1st. W. Pioneer era cabin, 5-room house, coal mine. 7,000 sq. ft. exhibit area. 1-5 Daily. May-Sept. Free.

Terry, PRAIRIE COUNTY MUSEUM, historic bank complex, steam heated outhouse, pioneer homestead. Lady Cameron photos. Memorial Day to Labor Day, Wed.-Mon. Closed Tues. Free.

Terry, CAMERON GALLERY, Lady Cameron photo collection of homesteaders in eastern Montana. Free.

Wibaux, CENTENNIAL CAR MUSEUM & STATE VISITOR CENTER, and the Pierre Wibaux and badlands cowboy interpretive center built by Pierre Wibaux in 1892. Museum complex: Pierre Wibaux house museum, antique barber shop, livery stable. Free tours May-Sept. (406) 795-2381.

Public Art Centers

Billings, YELLOWSTONE ART CENTER, 401 N. 27th St. Nationally accredited art museum. Changing exhibitions: contemporary and historic. Gift Shop. Closed Mon. (406) 256-6804. Free.

Hardin, BIG HORN COUNTY ARTS AND CRAFTS ASSOCIATION, JAIL HOUSE GALLERY. 219 N. Center. Crafts, art displays, prints, gift shop. (406) 665-3239. Free.

Miles City, CUSTER COUNTY ART CENTER, WATER WORKS GALLERY. Water Plant Rd., west of town. Annual Western Art Show, L.A. Huffman photographs. Open year-round, Tues.-Sun. 1-5. (406) 232-0635. Free.

Miles City, WOOL HOUSE GALLERY. 419 N. 7th St. In 1909 wool warehouse for Milwaukee RR. Tues.-Sat. 1-5. (406) 232-0769. Free.





Hysham

Hysham, the county seat of Treasure County, is bordered just to the north by the Yellowstone River and to the south by beautiful rolling hills.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, soon after Montana territory earned its statehood in 1889, Hysham was a part of the great expanse of Custer County. It was on what was then Crow Indian Reservation. Cattle branded with the Flying E grazed near the Northern Pacific tracks where trainmen threw off supplies "for Hysham." Charlie J. Hysham was associated with the Flying E Ranch which ran thousands of cattle in an area between the Bighorn River on the west to Reservation Creek on the east, and from the Yellowstone River to the Wyoming line.

Treasure County has some outstanding historic sites. Manuel Lisa built the first building, a fur trading post in Montana near the mouth of the Bighorn River in 1807. Fort Cass was the first fort built by the American Fur Co. on the Yellowstone, just three miles below the mouth of the Bighorn. Fort Pease was a stockade constructed in 1875, near the mouth of the Bighorn, as a defense against a party of Sioux Indians and also as a trading post. Remnants of Fort Pease still stand on the original site. Other locations of forts remain a mystery.

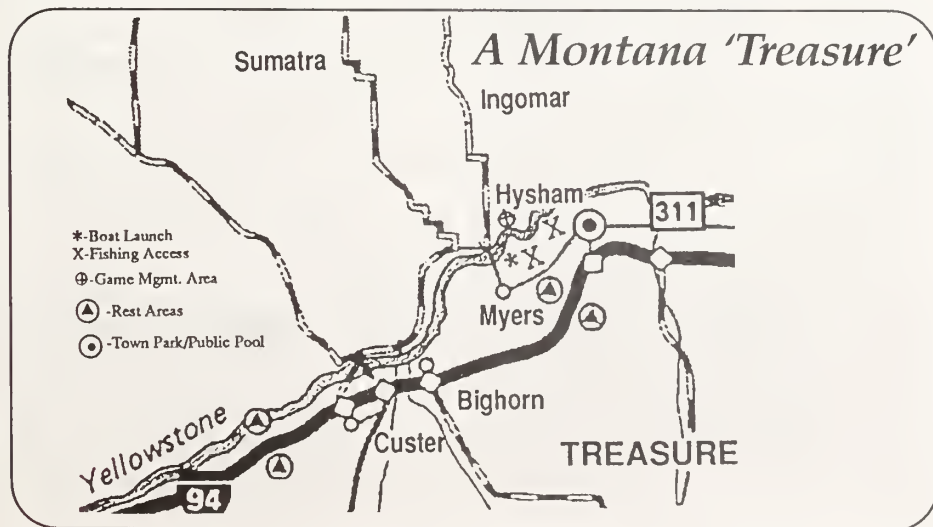
Located about half-way between Miles City and Billings on Interstate 94, Hysham has just about everything a visitor could need. Dropping down from the hills, newcomers will see this agricultural community spread before them in a panorama of green fields, pasture land and strips of grain. The community has four churches, a swimming pool for youngsters and adults, a city park with covered picnic facilities and free overnight camping, and tennis courts available at the school. For small airplanes, there is a lighted airport landing strip about two miles east of Hysham along a secondary highway. Treasure County has a museum on Hysham's main street. Across from the museum is the Manning family home and theater, which was donated to the town and is in the process of being preserved and opened to the public. "Tales of Treasure County," a history of the people and events of the area is sold at the museum.

Deer and antelope, pheasants, geese, turkeys, grouse, sage hens, and ducks make good hunting for local and out-of-state hunters.

The Myers Arena, about six miles from Hysham, is operated by members of the Treasure Riders, who sponsor roping and riding events during summer months.

Along the Yellowstone, which meanders through the area, there are numerous access sites for traveler enjoyment. As shown on the map, there is a boat dock at the state fishing access site at Myers Bridge. So take a break in Hysham and explore the fossil dig. Enjoy agate hunting or fishing, camping or boating.

Everyone is invited to enjoy the annual 4th of July parade barbecue, and fireworks at the City Park.



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Treasure County Museum

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Custer

"The town was very prettily located along the bank of the Yellowstone..." So wrote a steamboat captain about Junction City in the 1880's. Not much remains of Junction today—some old bottles and buttons and lots of tall tales—but the same quote can be said of Custer, the offshoot of Junction, born as the Yellowstone washed away at her.

Custer is a friendly town with lots of surprises for the traveler. Along the nearby Yellowstone River there is fishing, camping, boating and water skiing. For the explorer, there is rustic Boothill Cemetery, dedicated to the driver of an ill-fated stage coach, and the site of old Junction—"She was a daisy while she lasted." Nearby at the junction of the Bighorn and Yellowstone Rivers, is the site of Fort Manuel Lisa, the first building in Montana erected by white men.

Services available in Custer include a motel, antique and gift shop, gasoline, groceries, eats, repairs, and the local pubs.

Take a break and stretch your legs in the city park, which boasts tennis courts, a volleyball court and plenty of room for picnics. The old Great Northern Depot is in the park. Though the depot is in the process of being restored, shiny new bathroom facilities are already available for public use.

Ling—"Poor Man's Lobster"



Olivia Nohl of Switzerland came to Montana to hunt and went home with a 16 inch pronghorn. The buck antelope was a trophy for this European, even though it did not score in the record books.

Photo courtesy of Flying W Outfitters

Ling, the eel-like fish with the strange appearance and the delicious flavor of lobster, are caught in the Bighorn and Yellowstone Rivers from the end of November to the end of February. Minnows and worms are the bait to use. Custer, just minutes away from the confluence of these two rivers, has many resident experts who can provide the fisherman with directions and tips.

Float for Fish and Search for Agates

If you want some solitude and variety in your fishing, head downstream from Billings on the Yellowstone River.

The lower Yellowstone has an amazing fishery all its own — channel catfish, sauger, ling, walleye, shovelnose sturgeon and trout.

During the warm months of summer, floaters in rafts and canoes can camp and fish all the way to the North Dakota border.

This is also a prime agate hunting area. Floating the river allows recreationists to search the many sand and gravel bars along the shore as well as those exposed in midstream.

Join the fun of the Labor Day Roping and Dance September 3-4, 1995.

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I-94
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Golden Valley

Beautiful River Valley Near The Little Snowies

Golden Valley County was named one autumn day after frost had colored the trees along the Musselshell River a brilliant yellow. The river flows across the width of the county, and for present day tourist travel, Interstate Highway 12 follows the same scenic route. In contrast, the Big Snowy Mountains lie east and west on the northern border. Long ago, the last of the road signs which marked the famous Buffalo Trail Highway were taken as souvenirs. Today, a historic monument commemorates the site where Chief Joseph and his band of Nez Perce Indians crossed the Musselshell River in their flight north toward Canada.

Ryegate

Ryegate, the county seat, is on the western edge of the Custer Country tourism region. Nestled under the high rimrocks of the Musselshell River, the town is set in true central Montana cattle and sheep ranch land. The State Recreation Area of Dead Man's Basin, a few miles west, is well known for camping, fishing, boating and swimming.

In Ryegate a visitor will find a grocery store, restaurant, two bars, a post office, and gas station.

Lavina

About 45 miles northwest of Billings, on Highway 3, the most direct route to Canada from the south, is Lavina, the center of a farming and ranching community where everyone is considered a friend and neighbor.

Lavina, on the north-south route, was an early trading post and stage stop, started in the late 1800's by Walter Burke, who operated the stage line. When the railroad came through in the early 1900's, many of the buildings in town were built, the historic Adams Hotel being one of the first. This famous landmark still sits on Main Street as a tribute to this once bustling town.



Wooly sheep banded together are herded across Montana grasslands. They are part of the agricultural base of the state's economy, where farming and ranching and all of the production stages of agriculture are the number one industry.

Donna Delp Photo

Lavina, situated on the Musselshell River, is noted for its catfish and trout. Hunting and fishing licenses can be purchased at the Lavina Bar.

Stop and fish in some of the lakes and streams or hunt the various wildlife that is in the area.

Lavina has a country store, a cafe, city park, a service station, a bar, a beauty shop, post office, churches, a senior citizen center, and a meat cutting business. A blacksmith and a potter make a variety of items.



Pronghorn antelope are numerous on Custer Country's prairies. Gloria Wester Photo

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The Roundup Cattle Drive made Centennial history in 1989 when 3,500 riders saddled up alongside 250 wagons, and herded 3,000 head of cattle to Billings. A re-make of the event—on a smaller scale—is scheduled each year for six days and five nights. The 1995 dates are August 13-18. Join up!

Gerald "Stub" Bartow Photo

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Rendezvous On The Banks Of The Historic Musselshell River



The Roundup Mountain Man Rendezvous and Cowboy Encampment is set for August 1-6 in 1995. Plan to be in the area to see how inventive and resourceful early explorers and cowboys were when it came to clothing, lodging, and eating.

Travel Montana Photo



Roundup

Roundup—a town with a unique name—is nestled in the valley near the Musselshell River. It has long been renowned for its natural geographic design for rounding up livestock. It is still a place where old-fashioned values and ideals are present.

One of the highlights this year will be the sixth annual Roundup Cattle Drive. This annual event is organized by Roundup Cattle Drives, Inc. The drive is the western adventure of a lifetime (though not as dramatic as the movie, "City Slickers," makes it look!)

You'll enjoy the scenery of the wide open trail for six days and five nights,

August 13-18, this summer.

One of the previous cattle drive participants shared these highlights of the journey:

"The adventure begins with riders and horses being matched up. Those of us who are a little too 'asphalt' for five days on horseback were assigned to wagon seats.

"Seasoned cowboys were on hand to help get horses saddled and guests settled.

"The first night's campsite was just a few miles down the trail. We pitched tents, had showers (tent style), and had a fantastic meal, fit for an outdoor appetite. We'd already made lots of friends and enjoyed live western music

and dancing under the stars in the middle of the prairie. I heard a coyote call as I was falling asleep.

"It is up at dawn on the trail, watching wranglers catch horses. We were greeted with a hearty breakfast with cowboy coffee.

"We had lots of fun events and only minor mishaps on the trail. One of the favorite stories of mine is about a girl from New York who was on the drive with us. Her boyfriend saw some television coverage of her on the drive, and he flew out and met her and presented her with an engagement ring.

"For me, it was just the time of my life. I'm going back this next year!"

This year's drive will begin at the ranch house of the Brown ranch, about 30 miles outside of Roundup. Not a single motorized vehicle will be seen during the cattle drive days. Besides being fun, the cattle drive is a real learning experience for participants who get a chance to find out exactly what farming and ranching operations are all about and why the delicate balance of the environment has always been so crucial here.

Around Town

Recently, the city has undergone a rejuvenation. The linden and flowering crab trees that you see flourishing along Main Street were a project of the Beauty Undertaken for Decades (BUD) organization. The trees were planted by many people in the community and symbolize a united effort. Planters full of flowers and benches for a rest in the business district are other inviting touches.

Businesses offer everything from clothing to antiques to gourmet and espresso coffee shops. Wool weaving and spinning businesses are two "cottage industries" in Roundup. Be sure to tour these facilities and see the fascinating process of turning fleece into yarns. Advance notice will guarantee the visitor a chance to see demonstrations of the entire process.

The city has a park, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, golf course, hospital, municipal airport and a museum.

The CowBelle Campground, located at the fairgrounds on the southeastern edge of Roundup, offers free overnight camping and RV parking. The peaceful setting, on the banks of the Musselshell River, provides a beautiful location for family reunions, camping and barbecues.

A hanging tree scene on Roundup's main street is a reminder of early-day justice in Montana Territory.

Historical Museum

Roundup is also famous for its Musselshell Valley Historical Museum, open April through September, 1-5 p.m. daily. On entering, sign in on the old registry of the early day Adams Hotel of Lavina. The museum houses a coal tunnel, complete with wooden car, carbide lamps, lunch pails, maps and photos. Other exhibits include fossils, local Indian artifacts, and paintings by local artists. Special rooms display the old Rothiemy Store and post office, a one room rural school, a dressmaker shop, and original operating rooms of the old Vicars Hospital. Changing exhibits, such as quilt shows, and local artist and sculpture showings are scheduled for one area of the museum during the summer months. The grounds have a blacksmith shop, print shop and the old NF Ranch home, built in 1884. Guided tours through the museum are actually living history lessons. No admission is charged.

Scenery and Wildlife

The Bull Mountains, south of Roundup, offer beautiful roadside geology and pine trees. Companies,

adhering to careful reclamation processes, mine coal in these mountains. North of town are oil wells, evidence of another rich mineral in the area. Also near Roundup are the C.M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge and the Lewis and Clark National Forest.

The Musselshell River, noted for its fine trout and catfish, also offers plentiful spots for relaxing picnics along its lazy banks. The oblong mussels, for which the river is named, can be collected as "jewels of the Musselshell."

Watch for deer, antelope, turkeys and pheasants when you drive through the area. Sharp-eyed spotters will see elk grazing against the backdrop of the Bull Mountains. Deer are especially noticeable at dusk and dawn on the side roads.

Activities

Summer months in the Roundup area are full of activities such as rodeos ("rodeo" is the Spanish word for "roundup"), bazaars, demolition derbies and fairs. Spring, summer and fall outdoor activities include fishing, hunting, backpacking, camping, golf, tennis, sightseeing and photography. Cross country skiing and snowmobiling add to the wintertime fun.

Bump & Run Motocross

You will want to be sure to attend the Bump & Run motocross competitions held throughout the summer. The excitement and thrill is contagious as the drivers navigate turns, bumps and jumps while trying to "bump" the other drivers out of the way and be the first to cross the finish line.

1995 Events in Roundup

April: Musselshell Valley Historical Museum Opens.....	29
Fiddlers Jam	2
May: Bump & Run Motocross Rally ..	7
June: Child's Fishing Tank, ...	
Enjoy Sports.....	3
Bump & Run Motocross Rally.....	4
Dist. High School Rodeo	9-11
Wagon Train Drive, Sponsored by George Smith of Ingomar, MT 323-2520	June 29 - July 4
July: Parade, Fireworks, Evening Show	3
Parade & NRA Rodeo	4
Bump & Run Motocross Rally.....	9
Tri-County Horse Show	15-16
Tri-County & 4-H Fair.....	20-23
August: Roundup Mountain Man Rendezvous and Cowboy Encampment	1-6
Bump & Run Motocross	6
Roundup Cattle Drive.....	13-18
Sept.: Bump & Run Motocross.....	10
Oct.: Musselshell Valley Historical Museum closes.....	1
Air Gun Competition, Enjoy Sports	7
Dec.: Christmas Stroll	2

Towns East of Roundup

While you are in the area, check out these towns along Highway 12, between Forsyth and Roundup. Musselshell is a quiet little town with easy access to the Musselshell River. Nearby is Melstone. Ingomar, Sumatra and Vananda will hold a tri-city reunion July 28-30, 1995 in Ingomar. Around 5,000 people are expected. Travelers are welcome to stop by.



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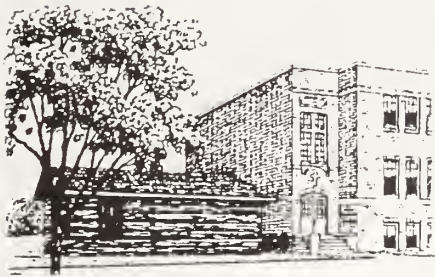
Plan to watch the Legends of Rodeo in action.

For Senior Pro Rodeos in Custer Country
Contact the National Office.

**Senior Pro Rodeo, P.O. Box 418,
Roundup, MT 59072
(406) 323-3380**

The National Old Timers Rodeo Association, organized in 1979, is headquartered in Roundup, and Montana was one of the original seven states in the organization. Fifty sanctioned rodeos are held each year, with contestants participating in these events to qualify for the National Finals held each fall.

Mike McCleary Photo



Musselshell Valley Historical Museum and homesteader cabin, Roundup, Montana

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Huntley Project, located east of Billings on I-94, is a valley of lush crops. The valley is actually made up of four small communities: Huntley, Worden, Ballantine, and Pompeys Pillar.

The name "Huntley Project" is short for Huntley Irrigation Project, which is the second U.S. Bureau of Reclamation irrigation projects. The area was part of the Crow Indian Reservation from 1874 to 1904 when the government purchased the 35,000 acres, stretching 27 miles—from Huntley east to the Little Bull Mountains.

The irrigation headgates opened on the project July 22, 1907, and homesteading began. The Huntley Post Office was established in 1877, one mile upstream from present day Huntley. It was a stage station and stopping off place for freighters and travelers. It also served as head of steamboat navigation on the Yellowstone River. In 1882 Northern Pacific Railway built a section house and depot a mile east and on the opposite bank of the river, and the growth center of Huntley followed. Since the town was located in the project, the Huntley Irrigation Project name came naturally.

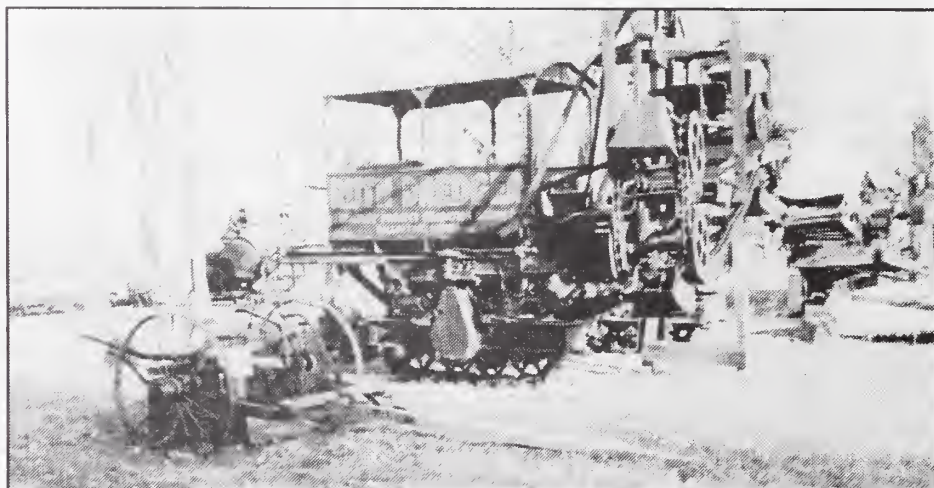
Homesteader Days

In 1964 the Huntley Project Lions Club organized the first "Homesteader Days."

The two-day celebration is held each year on the third weekend in July at Homesteader Park, located adjacent to the State Experiment Station, which is fifteen miles east of Billings on old Highway 10 and also accessible off the



Huntley Project



The gears of progress shift into reverse at Huntley Project each year, as the South Central Montana Antique Tractor and Machinery Association members put on a re-creation of an early-day threshing bee. Early day tractors, cars, wagons, and farm machinery like the Ruth Dredger pictured here delight crowds. Plowing, mowing, discing, baling, threshing, grain binding, and grain shocking are demonstrated.

Photo courtesy of Huntley Project Museum

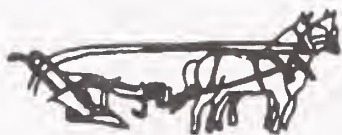
interstate. See the map illustration on the next page.

The Annual Homesteader Days will be July 15-16, 1995. Homesteader Hall, a memorial to homesteaders who settled the area, is a 1989 state centennial project of the Huntley Project Lions Club. The 40x60, kitchen-equipped hall

is available for reunions and other group activities when reservations are made by calling (406) 348-3812.

The celebration honors a hardy breed of pioneers who came on foot, by covered wagon, or by immigrant train to carve out a fertile valley in a land of sagebrush and greasewood.

Huntley Project Museum at Osborn Park



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**July
15-16**

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- Game Concessions
- Beer Garden



3 miles east of Huntley
20 miles east of Billings
on Highway 312



Homesteader Days activities are designed for all ages, just as they were in early history. They include kiddie rides, parades, booths, crafts, bingo, homesteader games, antique machinery, a floor show and church services. There is a homesteader dinner and a beer garden, too.

The admission is just one dollar for adults and children 11 and older. All younger children are admitted free.

The Huntley Project

Museum of Irrigated Agriculture

The Huntley Project Museum of Irrigated Agriculture is located in the townsite of the early-day town called Osborn. The collection is southern Montana's most outstanding museum of irrigated agriculture artifacts, with over 5,000 items displayed. It is the most complete museum of beet, small grain and early-day machinery, much of which has been restored to original condition and painted with authentic colors.

The museum interprets the preserva-

tion, restoration and display of the machinery, buildings and other homesteader implements, which were used by settlers of the irrigation project area.

A Million Memories

The slogan of the museum is inviting in itself: "A thousand smiles and a million memories await you." And to that, the community adds a warm invitation to take a short diversion off the interstate into the world and tools

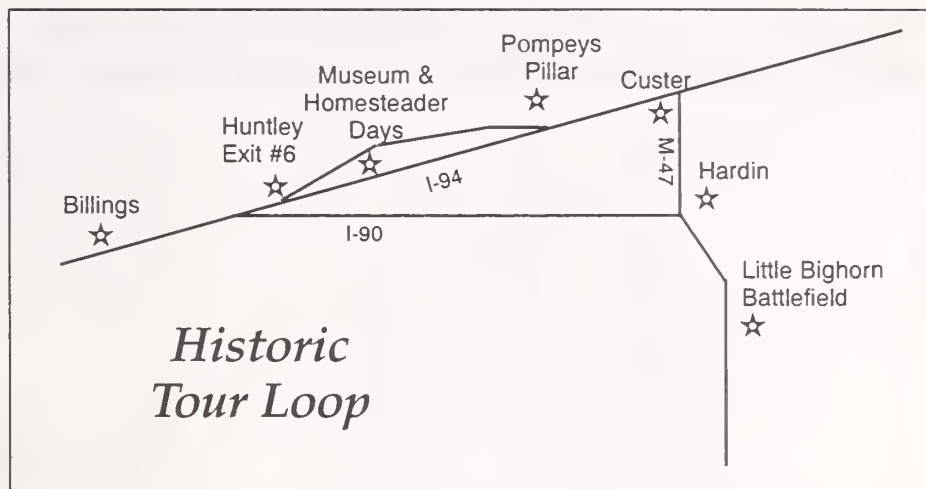
of our agricultural heritage.

Readers interested in the details about Huntley Irrigation Project, "Old Huntley" and the Huntley Project Museum May write to: Huntley Project Museum, c/o Marvin Balzer, 2504 N. 12th Rd., Worden, MT 59088-2104

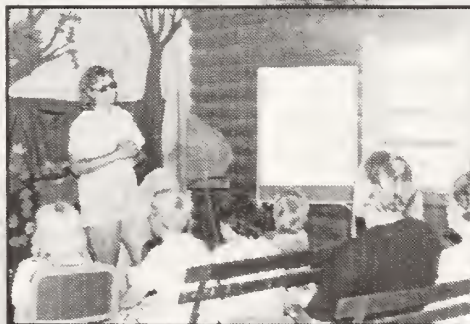
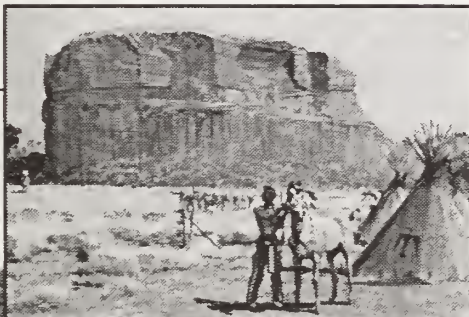
1995 Activities in Huntley

Homesteader Days July 15-16

Threshing Bee August 19-20



Historic Tour Loop



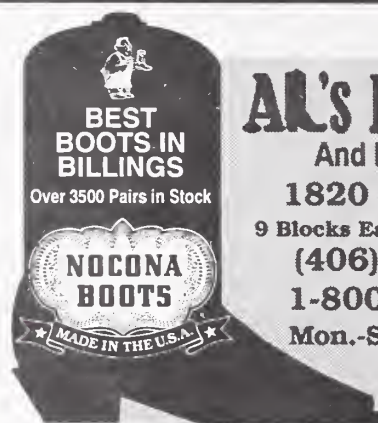
'Clark Day' is celebrated each year at Pompeys Pillar, the sandstone butte 22 miles east of Huntley where Captain William Clark of the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804-1806 carved his name. Canoes paddling to the site, food, entertainment, and interpretive activities are scheduled for Sunday, July 30 in 1995.

Gloria Wester Photos

Uptown *Advantage* in Downtown *Billings*

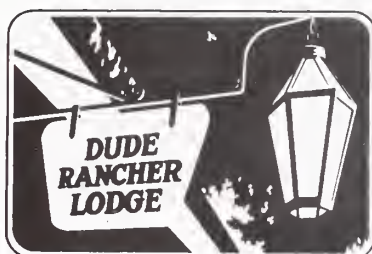
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Don't miss the Visitor Center just off exit 450 for information about Billings and area attractions. In front of the center is a heroic size monument commemorating the Great Montana Centennial Cattle Drive of 1989. The bronze is a cowboy on a horse, herding two longhorn steers. Bring your camera for your photo beside the monument. For a complete Billings calendar of events, write or call the Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 31177, Billings, MT 59107. (406) 245-4111 or 1-800-735-2635.



Billings

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Billings is where Montana Territory began, and where your historical and cultural "Passport" to the legendary West begins. Use Billings as a central point to the best western attractions, events, hospitality, shopping and cuisine. Regional accommodations specialize in making the road-weary traveler feel welcome and safe. Put up your feet. Kick back. And relax at one of the many and varied hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts, resorts and historic lodges in and around Billings.

Once you've had a chance to unwind, head downtown and pick up some genuine cowboy boots and a customized cowboy hat. Then, look for a matching

belt buckle and leather-tooled belt in one of the hundreds of great west-end shops. Check out the variety in the Heights area retail stores on your way to enjoy the spectacular beauty atop Billings' rimrocks.

In between, kick up your heels and explore the "Magic City," founded in 1882 by the president of the Northern Pacific Railroad, Frederick Billings. Catch the latest entertainment options at one of the special art shows, plays, exhibits or movies on tap at venues throughout Montana's largest city.

For the Palate

And then savor the best of Billings cuisine at some of the many restaurants offering sophisticated menus and mouth-watering selections. Whether

your appetite yearns for alfresco dining, lively entrees, or palate-pleasing gourmet delights, you're in the right place to indulge in a variety of unique western dining experiences.

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A rib-jarring ride in a creaking stagecoach or saddle-sore bounces on horseback were the only means of transportation when the West was won a century ago. Today, Billings is a modern, major thoroughfare for air, interstate, and highway travel. Billings Logan International Airport is a regional hub for major carriers and is also serviced by a number of regional airlines. This state-of-the-art facility offers 40 daily flights with worldwide connections.

The interstate highway system serves Billings from the south, east and west via I-90 and I-94. Major passenger, charter and package bus lines also serve the area with numerous daily arrivals and departures.

Information, Please

Your information center to attractions in Billings, the region and the state is the **Billings Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center**, 815



The skyline of the "Magic City." Billings offers big city comforts as a gateway city to Montana and the Old West.

South 27th Street off I-90 Exit 450 (406) 252-4016 or 1-800-735-2635. Visitors are welcomed by the Cattle Drive monument, standing in tribute to the Great Montana Centennial Cattle Drive of 1989. Brochures, information, and friendly assistance await you. They are your information passport to the West!

Attractions and Points of Interest
Billings is the gateway to our nation's legendary western heritage in many ways. Over a century of cowboys, cowgirls, Indians, rustlers and Custer still dominate the galleries, museums, cabins, mansions and historic sites within the "Magic City."

Walk through a period when the untamed Yellowstone River Valley was in her infancy. Places, people and images of the valley from 1880-1940

showcase an interactive museum in the turn-of-the-century **Western Heritage Center**. At 2822 Montana Ave., (406) 256-6809. Free.

Vital to the valley's early growth were the familiar chugging, smoke-belching steam engines. The last to operate in Billings overlooks the city it helped create at the **Peter Yegen, Jr. Yellowstone County Museum**. Authentic cowboy and Indian artifacts and more are part of this huge collection. Located at Logan International Airport, (406) 256-6811. Free.

The railroad brought prosperity to Billings, and prosperity brought Preston B. Moss. In 1901, architect H.J. Hardenbergh (designer of the Waldorf-Astoria and Park Hotels in New York City) erected the elegant Moss estate.

The three-story **Moss Mansion** remains authentically furnished and open year-round for hourly tours. At 914 Division Street, (406) 256-5100. Admission charged.

Following the completion of the Moss Mansion, **The Castle** was constructed to mirror Chicago's elite Potter Palmer mansion. The medieval-looking structure remains a private home, although the historic carriage house is now a gift shop and the old livery stable is a restaurant. At 622 North 29th St.

Finding solace in his small rustic cabin, famed Billings artist J.K. Ralston put the West on canvas. His restored home and studio, the **J.K. Ralston Cabin**, is on display on the north end of the Rocky Mountain College campus.

The rugged embrace of the

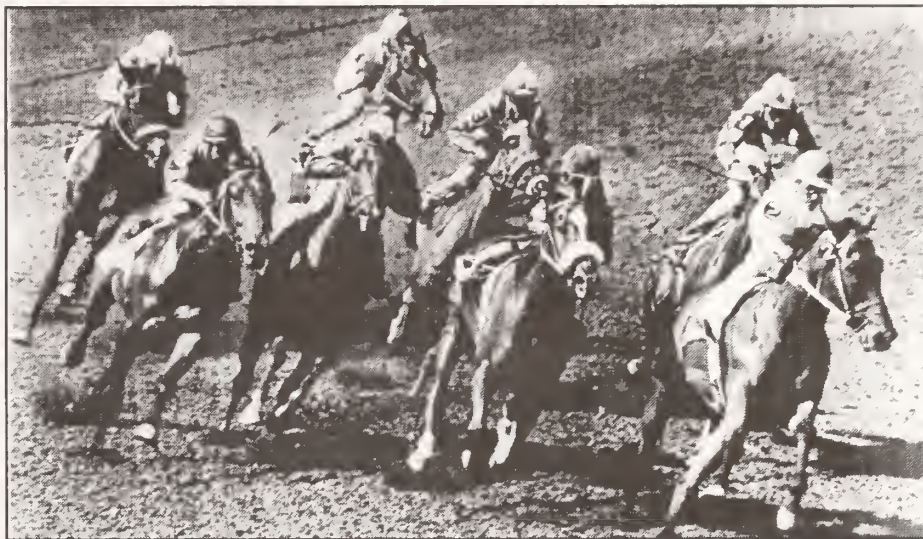
Rimrocks, surrounding Billings, branded this area since time began. Billings' history unfolds along the **Black Otter Trail** winding along this elevated sandstone skyline. The trail is named for a Crow Indian chief who was buried here after his death at the hands of a Sioux war party. The scenic trail begins at US 10 in east Billings.

Rugged as the Rimrocks enclosing their tombstones, were the outlaws, marshals and townsfolk of Coulson, who haunt **Boothill Cemetery** along Black Otter Trail. Violence and death were common to the residents of this 1800s Old West town, and to the Army scout, Muggins Taylor, who carried the news of Custer's defeat to the world. He was buried here after a shoot-out.

Campaigns to force Native Americans onto reservations increased following Custer's defeat. Frontiersman and scout, "Yellowstone" Kelly, was called upon to guide the Army on its quest. **Yellowstone Kelly's grave**, west of Boothill, is shadowed by five majestic mountain ranges—the Bighorns, Pryors, Beartooths, Crazies and Snowies.

Indian warriors were slowly defeated not only by the Army, but by a white man's disease—smallpox. **Sacrifice Cliff**, part of the Rimrocks, located just south of the Yellowstone River and opposite Boothill, was the site of a Crow village. Legend tells that upon a war party's return, young braves found the village decimated by smallpox. Warriors blindfolded their ponies and rode them over the cliff to appease the gods and halt the epidemic.

Walk in their steps. They were the



And they're off! Pari-mutuel betting at MetraPark Fairgrounds rings in with thundering hooves and lightning pay-offs beginning August 11 and running every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through September, plus Labor Day. Simulcast horse racing at the Fairgrounds Turf Club carries horse racing excitement throughout the rest of the year.

Photo courtesy of MontanaFair

most famous explorers in American history. Meriwether Lewis and Captain William Clark. **Pompeys Pillar** bears the only remaining physical evidence along the trail of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Captain Clark carved "Wm. Clark, July 25, 1806." Open Memorial Day through Labor Day. 28 miles east of Billings; I-94 Exit 23.

Before the white man, before the Crow Indian, and long before the buffalo, the western Indian hunted the woolly mammoth, and documented the hunt with cave paintings. Over 4,500 years ago, **Pictograph Caves State Park** was home to these Indians. Paintings are still visible. Go southeast of Billings on I-90; take Lockwood Exit

452; follow signs 7 miles. Self-guided, handicap access trail with accompanying brochure available at site. Nominal park fee.

Artists have continued to adorn the West. You can view a sample of the contributions of modern artists along the **Avenue of Sculptures**. Along 27th Street, from Exit 450 to the airport. In order from south to north: Cattle Drive Monument at the Visitor Center; "The Trough" in front of Norwest Bank, 175 N. 27th; Sheriff Webb memorial marker, courthouse lawn corner, 2nd Ave. N. and N. 27th; Reineking statue at Yellowstone Art Center, 4th Ave. N. and N. 27th; Range Rider of the Yellowstone equestrian statue in mem-



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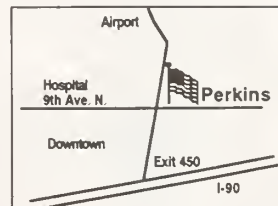
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NILE brings a wide variety of cattle breeds, horse breeds, hay seed and feed shows, rip-roaring rodeo and ag displays to Billings each October. Here, a trainer poses with NILE's 1994 grand champion female mini horse.

Kemens Photo

ory of actor, William Hart, in front of the airport.

Pioneer life surrounds you at **Oscar's Dreamland**. Ride the historic train or walk the streets through Pioneer Town and learn the story of the early day agriculture. See the world's largest private collection of farm machinery.

May-Oct., I-90 Exit 446; west on Frontage Road; one mile south of Market Basket. (406) 248-0966. Admission.

If you listen closely, you can hear the past. It's the horses' hooves clicking on the cobblestones underneath the pavement in Billings Historic District, the

preserved business district of early-day Montana Ave., N. 22nd Street to N. 26th Street downtown.

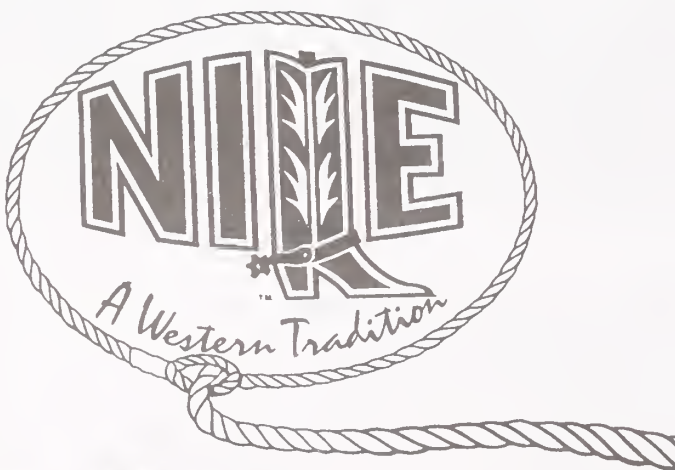
Arts and Entertainment

Feel the Montana spirit reverberate through the floorboards and theater stage. Art, music, dancing, plays, cultural events, and more are waiting. Grab your boots and hit the Billings streets for some fun!

Historic and contemporary art forms from nationally and internationally acclaimed artists dominate rotating exhibits at the **Yellowstone Art Center**. At the zenith of visual arts galleries in a four-state region, the art center offers a first-class Montana collection, showcasing favorites like Russell Chatham, Will James, Deborah Butterfield. At 401 North 27th St. downtown. (406) 256-6804. Free

Broadway musicals, ballet, the Billings Symphony Orchestra and Chorale, and celebrity musicians on tour perform at the **Alberta Bair Theater**, the largest performing arts theater between Minneapolis and Spokane. At Broadway and 3rd Ave. North downtown. Tickets (406) 256-6052.

Competitive auditions bring the best of local talent to the stage for works



October 14 - 21, 1995
Billings, MT
MetraPark

- **Livestock Shows & Sales**
- **Professional Rodeo**
- **Farm & Home Trade Show**
- **NILE Cowboy Revue**
- **Family Entertainment**

Contact:

Northern International Livestock Exposition
P.O. Box 1981, Billings, MT 59103
Ph: (406) 256-2495 ■ Fax: (406) 256-2494

ranging from Shakespeare to Neil Simon and summer repertory at **Billings Studio Theatre**. Located midtown at 1500 Rimrock Road, (406) 248-1141.

The opulent **Babcock Theater** opened in 1907 as a delightful Vaudeville theater. This timeless nickel theater is preserved by Starfire Productions for a calendar full of individual performers, plays, music and even big screen classic movies. At 2810 2nd Ave. North downtown. (406) 256-6052.

Acres of entertainment thrill thousands every year at **MetraPark**. The modern concert, trade show and rodeo arena is surrounded by the fairgrounds, pari-mutuel horse-race track and superbarn complex. The best gets better as the facility's improvement plan goes into construction phase this year. Sidewalk superintendent hats are welcome! MetraPark is home of the state's largest event—MontanaFair. Where the river meets the rims. (406) 256-2400 or 1-800-366-8538.

Montana's only wildlife park is nestled in 70 acres of lush Montana green. Follow Canyon Creek through **Zoo Montana's** winding nature trail. Then stop and watch the otters play as you

discover the native and exotic animals in their natural habitats. Children will enjoy the turn-of-the-century Montana homestead petting zoo in a farm and ranch setting. April 15-Oct. 15. Exit 446; west on Frontage Road to Shiloh Road. (406) 652-8100.

Fresh Air Recreation

Whether you're looking for broncbusting rodeo action or the relaxation of fishing or hunting, you'll be in good company around Billings. Teddy Roosevelt, Calamity Jane and Charles Lindberg sought refuge and recreation throughout the Billings area.

Watch Montana's wildlife by grabbing your binoculars and heading to the plains or hiking in the mountains that encapture Billings. Or, grab a bench to watch the toughest cowboys and cowgirls aboard the meanest and biggest bulls and broncs. The **Billings Night Rodeo** bucks into action nightly, June-Aug. (406) 248-1080. Admission.

Try the colorful water adventure—wind surfing. At **Lake Elmo State Park**, your instructor will set you asail. Or float your cares away in your non-motorized or electrically propelled boat. Feet-on-the-ground fishermen cast tackle into the man made lake, that

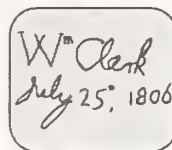
Welcome! Visitors Guide



Billings



Battlefield



**Tour
Loops**



The Park

Pick up your Free copy of this helpful booklet at the Billings Visitor Information Center

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The Bungalow

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The Bungalow is the most unique restaurant, lounge, and casino facility in the Billings area. Located at 925 South 27th Street, next to the new Hojo Inn Hotel.

Stop in and try Billings Newest HOT SPOT!!



ZooMontana organizes the state's largest outdoor musical festival at MetraPark, the state's largest entertainment complex. Last year the event drew over 10,000 zoo-supporting music lovers.

Jim Duncan Photo

channel catfish, crappie, yellow perch and large mouth bass now call theirs. Roger's Pier on the south side of the lake provides deeper access. Hikers and bird watchers enjoy the .7 mile trail, complete with benches for a pause to relax. Lifeguards supervise the wide beach area where picnickers savor shady feasts. In winter, enjoy cross country skiing. Heights Main Street to Pemberton Lane; west to the lake. Nominal park fee.

Trails for feet and hooves wind a labyrinth through **Riverfront Park** where fresh air enthusiasts have a year-round free access to fishing, hiking,

cross country skiing, or a simple picnic. Non-motorized boats float across fishing waters, and horseback riders exercise their steeds on the equestrian trails. I-90 Exit 447; south on South Billings Boulevard.

You'll want to avoid the water at the numerous public golf courses in Billings! Tee off at these: Circle Inn Golf Links (9, par 3) 259-3351; Lake Hills Golf Club (18) 252-9244; Par 3 Exchange City Golf Course, 652-2553; or Peter Yegen, Jr. Golf Club (18) 656-8099. Two private courses allow limited public play: Briarwood Country Club (18) 248-2702; and Pryor Creek Golf Course (27)

256-0626. Call for tee times.

Mustard up a hotdog and buy a sack of peanuts to settle in for the Cincinnati Red's Pioneer League farm team to throw the first pitch. The **Billings Mustangs** play at Cobb Field at 9th Ave. North and North 27th Street. (406) 252-1241.

Rev up your engines and head to **Magic City Speedway**, 5 miles east of Billings on Highway 10 E. where the checkered flag starts the action on summer nights. Admission.

Pick your favorite thoroughbred, and lay a wager on your favorite jockey. Thundering hooves fly from the starting gate for **Pari-Mutuel Horse Racing** action at MetraPark fairgrounds in August and September.

Making It Eventful

Strawberry Festival, June 10—Over 25 food vendors, all with something strawberry, along with over 75 arts and crafts vendors block off four city blocks to celebrate this scrumptious summertime delight. Enjoy the entertainment, live music on two stages and children's activities. Downtown Billings Association is sponsor, 115 North Broadway, Suite 300, Billings, MT 59101, (406) 259-5454.

Western Days, June 16-17—This 50-year old celebration of our western heritage is hosted by the Billings Jaycees.

Opposite Page — Stop and smell the flowers. Get away from it all right in Montana's largest city. Take a walk along the trails at Riverfront Park. Spend some time watching the antics of the otters at ZooMontana. Or go windsurfing, picnicking, or swimming at Lake Elmo State Park.

Background photo by Donna Delp

FREE ADMISSION

Peter Yegen Jr. Yellowstone County Museum

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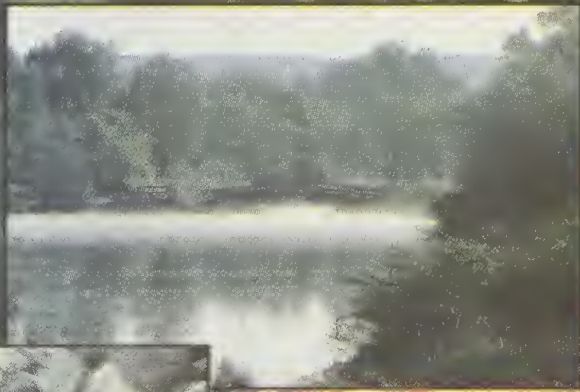
Mon. – Fri. 10:30 – 5:00

Sun. 2:00 – 5:00

Sat. (May 13 – Sept. 16) 1:00 – 5:00

Logan International Airport
Billings, Montana
(406) 256-6811







This beautiful botanical showcase is a highlight of a visit to ZooMontana. Designed to be a "garden for everyone," visitors are encouraged to touch, taste, and smell the wonders of the zoo plant world.

Jim Duncan Photo

The event begins with a downtown barbecue, then features a big parade, children's activities, gunfights and a tourist "kidnapping." A street dance, spurred by country-western music is held in the evening. Call the Billings Chamber for more information, (406) 245-4111 or 1-800-735-2635.

ZooGrass Festival, June 25—Top name

musical acts perform under Montana's Big Sky to benefit ZooMontana. ZooMontana, P.O. Box 80905, Billings, MT 59108-0905, (406) 652-8100.

Big Sky State Games, July 14-16—Amateur athletes from 250 Montana cities and towns participate in the largest multi-sport event in the state. Ten thousand athletes vie for state vic-

tories in archery, basketball, shooting, softball, wrestling, wind surfing and a number of other events. For details call (406) 255-7426 or write: Big Sky State Games, P.O. Box 2318, Billings, MT 59103.

Big Skyfest, Aug. 3-6—Sixty hot air balloons will paint the sky in the biggest hot air balloon event in the Northwest. It kicks off with a parade Thursday, displays at Amend Park (off King Ave. West and South Billings Blvd.), The 5th Dimension and Billings Symphony at Rocky Bowl Saturday night, western-style carnival, booths and games. Call (406) 252-9355.

MontanaFair, Aug. 12-19—Montana's largest statewide event features a carnival, top name country-western music performers, rodeos, horse racing, midway acts, and more. MetraPark, P.O. Box 2514, Billings, MT 59103, (406) 256-2400 or 1-800-366-8538.

A Taste of Billings, Aug. 16—Experience the best of Montana as you dine and dance in the streets of downtown Billings. Last year 600 people enjoyed exquisite food, live music, and dancing to the sounds of the Big Band era. The finest dining establishments are represented. Cost: \$15-\$30 a person. Reservations required. Sponsored by Downtown Billings Association, 115 North Broadway, Suite 300, Billings, MT 59101, (406) 259-5454.

NILE Stock Show and Rodeo, Oct. 16-21—The Northern International Livestock Show and PRCA Rodeo celebrates its 28th anniversary in 1995. Western excitement centers around world-class rodeo action, entertainment, livestock and trade shows. Call (406) 256-2495.



This great horned owl is a highlight of ZooMontana's program

Jim Duncan Photo

Events in Billings

1995

April: Anne Frank Exhibit,
Billings Parmly Library 1-8
NILE Bull Riders Contest, MetraPark ... 15
Billings Symphony Concert,
Alberta Bair Theater..... 22
Gem & Mineral Show, MetraPark 22-23
Much Ado About Nothing,
Billings Studio Theatre..... 4/21-5/6
Peaks to Prairie Race, Run, Bike, Boat,
Red Lodge to Billings. 30
May: Big Sky Intercollegiate Rodeo 4-7
Montana Women's Run,
Downtown Billings 13
Big Sky Polka Fest, Elks Club 13-14
NILE Spring Horse Show & Sale,
MetraPark 12-14
June: Chicago, Billings Studio Theatre
Drama, ... 2-17
Strawberry Festival, Downtown Billings. 10
Festival of Cultures, RMC Campus 11
World Figure Skating Champions,
MetraPark 11
Symphony Concert in Pioneer Park 25
ZooGrass Festival Concert,
MetraPark Grounds, Noon-5. 25
July: Fireworks, MetraPark. 4
Food Fair, Downtown Billings 5
Big Sky State Games, Citywide 14-16
Summerfair, RMC 15-16
Great American Championship
Motorcycle Hill Climb, ... 29-30
August: Food Fair, Downtown Billings ... 2
Big Skyfest, Hot Air Balloons 3-6
Hispanic Fiesta 4-5
Pari-Mutuel Horse Racing,
MetraPark, ... 11-13, 18-20, 25-27
MontanaFair, Carnival, Horse Races,
Stars, Rodeos, Exhibits, Cattle Shows,
MetraPark 12-19
Taste of Billings, Downtown Billings 16
NRA Rodeo, MetraPark 17-19
September: Pari-Mutuel Horse Racing,
MetraPark, ... 1-4, 8-10, 15-17, 22-24
Home Improvement Show 8-10
Business Expo '95, MetraPark 13-14
October: J.K. Ralston Show and Auction. . 6
NILE Exhibits, MetraPark Arena 16-21
NILE PRCA Rodeo, MetraPark 17-21
November: Holiday Food Show,
Holiday Trade Center 18-19
Holiday Parade, Downtown Billings 24
December: Christmas Stroll,
Downtown Billings 1
1996
February: National Rodeo Association
Finals, MetraPark 2-4
State All-Class State Wrestling Tourney,
MetraPark 9-10
Montana Agri-Trade Exposition
MetraPark 3rd Weekend
March: Home Improvement
Show 1st Weekend
Go Show Auto Display,
MetraPark 3rd Weekend
St. Patrick's Day Parade, Downtown 17
Montana Outdoor Recreation Exposition,
MetraPark 4th Weekend

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❖
Kelly Inn Toll-Free Reservations: 1-800-635-3559



Are you ready to catch the spirit of the Big Sky? If so, book a flight into Billings Logan International Airport. The airport has completed a major renovation project. The result is a beautiful airport terminal, housing major airlines. Flight details are handled efficiently with a smile.

Photo courtesy of CTA Architects Engineers

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American

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Billings... Cultural Center of Montana

The Billings Symphony Orchestra and Chorale, Billings' musical showpiece, is at the apex of the varieties of music Billings offers. Classical, jazz, Dixieland, rock, bluegrass—all the notes and rhythms keep Billings humming.



Billings Symphony Orchestra

The Yellowstone Art Center, at 401 North 27th St. in Billings—(406) 256-6804—is the foremost contemporary art museum in the region and is accredited by the American Association of Museums. The center features permanent collections, including the Will James collection, in addition to changing exhibitions of historic and contemporary work. Pictured here is "Machine Heart" by John Buck, a 1993 acrylic on cottonwood, a part of the permanent collection. (Purchase funded by Miriam Sample).



"Evita" at the Alberta Bair Theater

Performances of all forms of dance, music and theater are a regular part of the Billings entertainment scene. The Alberta Bair Theater, Billings Studio Theatre, the historic Babcock Theatre, the colleges, dinner theaters, and MetraPark combine to provide a continuous calendar of performing arts for Billings natives and visitors. Dates, titles, and ticket information are available through each facility, or contact the ABT ticket office (406) 256-6052.

The Moss Mansion, 914 Division Street, is a beautiful historic home. As you enter the elegant mahogany entrance, you are transported to turn-of-the-century Billings as the wealthy Preston B. Moss family

lived in it. The Moss Mansion is open to the public. Days the mansion is open and hours for tours change seasonally. Call (406) 256-5100 for arrangements and rates. Special group scheduling and rates.



"Machine Heart" at Art Center



Inside the Moss Mansion



Rodeo Talk

When you attend a rodeo, you'll hear the announcer use terms that are part of the arena lingo. Here's a little help with brushing up on "rodeo talk."

Average: Contestants in rodeos with more than one go-round, average all the go-rounds. The winner of the average is the winner of that event.

Breaking the Barrier: If the contestant rides through or breaks out of his starting post before it is released, he is assessed a penalty of more seconds added to his time. This helps give a calf, steer, or goat an equal start with the rodeoer.

Choking the Apple: If a rider grasps the saddle horn while contest bronc riding, he is disqualified.

Dallying: A rider takes a wrap or several wraps around the horn with a rope, making it temporarily secure.

End Swapper: A bronc that reverses its position in the middle of a high buck is an end swapper.

Flank Strap: A sheepskin lined strap with a self-holding buckle is passed around the flank of the bronc or bull and is pulled tight as the animal leaves the chute. In an effort to get rid of the flank strap, the stock bucks higher and harder.

Go-Round: This is a session of rodeo that allows each contestant to compete on one head of stock.

Hazer: A cowboy who rides along beside a steer on the opposite side from the steer wrestler to keep the steer from running away from the steer wrestler's horse is a hazer.

No Time: When a flag fieldman waves "no time" it means that the contestant has not caught or thrown his animal properly and does not qualify on that animal in that go-round.

Pick-up Man: A mounted cowboy in the arena who assists riders in dismounting after they have completed their rides.

Pulling Leather: When a bronc rider holds onto the horn or any part of the saddle, he is said to be pulling leather. Pulling leather disqualifies a saddle bronc rider if it is done before the ride is completed.

Re-ride: When a ride does not qualify a rider in a go-round, and the fault is other than the rider's, he is given another chance in that go-round.

Spinner: A bull or horse that bucks in close, tight circles. A spinner is usually very hard to ride.

Rodeo, a truly western sport, began as a result of activities performed by the working cowboy on his day-to-day job. It wasn't long before cowboys began gathering regularly to test their skills and to prove who was the toughest and best rider. Early contests usually took place after the annual roundup.

Today, action-packed rodeos still put cowboy skills to the test. There are ranch rodeos, old timer rodeos, team roping events and youth rodeos.

Experience the western way of life as we live it in Big Sky Country!

To find out about other Northern Rodeo Association rodeos in and around Montana, contact the NRA office in Billings: Northern Rodeo Association, P.O. Box 1122, Billings, MT 59103, phone (406) 252-0300.

Rodeos and roping events are held at the Horse Palace Equestrian Center at East Laurel Exit 437 all year. Admission prices fit the family budget. Events are scheduled nearly every day from November through April. Summer dates offer some spectacular events. For a complete schedule, write to Horse Palace, 7215 Mossmain Drive, Billings, MT 59106, phone (406) 628-2049.

Billings Night Rodeo is held nightly in June, July and August. Call (406) 248-1080 for details

1995 Custer Country Region Rodeo Schedule

April	
NILE Bull Riders Invitational	
Billings	15

May	
Big Sky Intercollegiate Championships	
Billings	4-7
Richey High School Rodeo	
Richey	14
Bucking Horse Sale Rodeo	
Miles City	19-21
Powwow and Rodeo	
Lame Deer	28-30

June	
NRA Rodeo & Bullmania	
Forsyth	2-4
Ranch Rodeo, Broadus	4
District High School Rodeo	
Roundup	9-11
Deb Wobig Memorial Rodeo	
Hardin	18-19
Little Big Horn Days Rodeo	
Hardin	23-24
Little Levi Rodeo (12 & under)	
Broadus	24

July	
Rodeo Events Ismay (Joe)	1-2
NRA July 4th Rodeo, Roundup	4
Amateur Rodeo, Terry	4
Amateur Rodeo, Hardin	4
Ranch Rodeo, Broadus	4
Youth Rodeo (ages up to 18), Wibaux	8
Richey Rodeo, Richey	16
Rodeo, Ingomar	30

August	
NRA Rosebud/Treasure County	
Fair Rodeo, Forsyth	3-5
PRCA Rodeo and Fair, Glendive	11
Days of '85 Rodeo, Ekalaka	11-13
Crow Fair Rodeo, Crow Agency	17-20
NRA Montana Fair Rodeo	
Billings	17-19
NRA Fallon County Fair, Baker	17-20
PRCA Rodeo & Fair, Miles City	24-27
Rodeo, Wibaux	26

September	
Team Roping, Custer	3-4
October	
PRCA NILE Rodeo, Billings	17-21
February 1996	
NRA Rodeo Finals, Billings	2-4



A life-size metal statue of Chief Joseph stands watch in Laurel's Firemen's Park. The statue was a state Centennial project of the Laurel Women in Business and was sculpted by local artist, Gary Temple. The dedication of the statue was held on August 5, 1989, to coincide with the annual Appaloosa Horse Club's Chief Joseph Trail Ride. The Canyon Creek Battlefield marker 7 miles north of Laurel commemorates the battle between the Nez Perce tribe and the U.S. Cavalry, led by General Sturgis. A self-guided interpretive development is planned at this site.

Milt Wester Photo



Laurel

At The Crossroads to Yellowstone Park

Laurel is the crossroads to Yellowstone Park and Custer Country. Highway 212 leads to the Cody (east) and Cooke City (northeast) entrances of the park. I-90 is the route to the Gardiner (north) and West Yellowstone (west) entrances. Stop at the Chamber of Commerce office, located at the Laurel Outlook newspaper building, 415 East Main, for directions and information.

Stay Overnight

Excellent motel and hotel accommodations are available in Laurel. There is a variety of restaurants and drive-ins. If you like to camp or you have an RV, Riverside Park, on the banks of the Yellowstone River, has facilities for 100

campers. Camping is \$7 per night, for the seven spots with hook-ups for water and lights. Spots without hook-ups are \$5 per night. For reservations call (406) 628-2491. Horseshoe pits, room for volleyball, ample fishing access and a boat ramp make the campsite ideal.

For campers, Cenex Convenience Center, just off the interstate at exit 434, has a free RV dump station.

Hunt, Fish, and Ski

Within minutes of Laurel are some of Montana's best trout streams and lakes. Hunting near Laurel is also excellent. Waterfowl, upland game and big game are plentiful, including pheasants, ducks, mallards, geese, whitetail and

mule deer.

Forty-five minutes to the south is one of the best spots in the west to ski — Red Lodge. Cooney Dam, 35 miles southwest, provides recreation opportunities such as boating, fishing and water skiing.

Enjoy Rodeo All Year!

Rodeos and roping events are held at the Horse Palace Equestrian Center at East Laurel Exit 437 all year. Admission prices fit the family budget. Events are scheduled nearly every day from November through April. Summer dates offer some spectacular events. For a complete schedule, write to Horse Palace, 7215 Mossmain Drive, Billings, MT 59106, phone (406) 628-2049.

Fourth of July Events

Be in Laurel on the Fourth of July to see the state's largest, most spectacular fireworks display! You won't believe that this extravaganza is free. But it is!

The 4th of July is a fun-filled celebration in Laurel. Activities begin the night before on July 3 with the Jaycee Street Dance. The morning of the 4th finds the Jaycees still going strong—cooking pancakes and sausage for breakfast.

A Kiddie Parade is next on the list of activities, and the Laurel 4th of July Parade follows shortly after. Bands, Shrine units, floats, lots of horses and antique cars combine for the annual event.

After the parade, Thomson Park, 1/2 mile north of downtown, is the place for lots of food and fun. Picnics and an American Legion International Baseball Tournament make the 4th a real family fun time.

The celebration lights up the sky at dusk when the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department presents a dazzling fireworks display on the ground and in the air. Music accompanies the aerial display, making hearts swell and spirits soar.

Swimming, Sports, Services

If a cool dip in the pool is what you need, the municipal swimming pool is located right in the center of the action at Thomson Park, along with tennis courts, picnic tables, playground equipment, softball fields and volleyball areas.

Canyon Creek Battlefield

The Nez Perce Indians, led by Chief Joseph, fought a rear-guard action at a



Alec Popp is a popular performer at the Laurel Herbstfest, Laurel's ethnic German festival.

site 7 miles north of Laurel at Canyon Creek. While the rest of the band escaped up the canyon, sharp shooters hidden in the canyon wall kept the cavalry at bay.

The Friends of Canyon Creek Battlefield, Inc. of Laurel is working to preserve and interpret the site. Fund raisers are in progress to help establish a future exhibit at the site. The battlefield is in the National Park Trails System.

"Home of the Herbstfest"

Laurel is the "Home of the Herbstfest." The festival is patterned after the German Oktoberfest held in Munich, Germany. Many Laurel citizens are of German descent, and they make the Laurel Herbstfest the most authentic German festival in the state. This community event offers a unique type of entertainment which has pleased thousands of people each year.

Make plans to attend this festival the fourth weekend in September. The entertainment headliner for 1995 is The Steve Meisner Band, featuring Vern Meisner who was inducted into the Polka Hall of Fame this past year. A jam session is held Friday night with the stars who will entertain at the festival.

Ticket prices are \$7 for adults at the gate, \$6 for sr. citizens. Advance tickets are \$6. Call (406) 628-8306 to place an order. It's family entertainment at its best. Enjoy festive music and dancing. Sample German, American, and other specialty foods.

Laurel Brilliant at Christmas

Laurel has an outstanding winter event, "A Christmas to Remember." The entire business community places

lights on their store fronts and on street fixtures lining Main Street. Firemen's Park in downtown Laurel is the scene of "Santa's Workshop," where several motorized elves work busily on the toys that Santa will distribute Christmas Eve. The Laurel Volunteer Fire Department erects the display annually. Arcing above the street, next to Santa's workshop, is Santa himself, led by his eight reindeer. Brilliantly lighted, the display, provided by the Laurel Chamber of Commerce, is the largest Santa ornament in the state.

Atop the hill to the north is Montana's Centennial-sanctioned Christmas house. Another Laurel resident's home was selected and featured as one of the best decorated homes in the United States by USA Today. Drive through Laurel in December. The whole town joins in to make it a true Christmas jewel.

On the first weekend in December, a Parade of Lights down First Avenue at 5 p.m. features carolers carrying lights. A Christmas Cantata, and business open house activities throughout the day add to the fun on Dec. 3, 1995, in Laurel. Santa Claus arrives at 5:15 at the park.

1995 Events in Laurel

July: American Legion Baseball Tournament 2-4
July: Street Dance 3
 Largest Free Fireworks Display in Montana, Jaycees Pancake Breakfast, Kids' Parade, Laurel Chamber of Commerce Grand Parade 4
 Yellowstone River Boat Float 7-9
August: Annual "Poker" Rod Run, old car and hot rod event 5
September: Herbstfest 22-24
 Music, Arts, and Crafts in Firemen's Park Downtown; Jam Session, Bierstube 8 p.m. 22
 Herbstfest Run 8 a.m.; Parade 10:30 a.m. 23
 Festhalle Activities 23-24
 23rd 11:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
 24th 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m.
October: Annual Praise Festival Second Sunday
December: Tenth Annual Christmas to Remember festival. Parade of Lights 5:00 p.m. 3
 Alumni Basketball Tournament Last Week

This member organization helps support tourism information for the Custer Country region:
 Laurel Herbstfest



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Biggest fireworks display in the state
Photo by Larry Mayer

Stop at the
Laurel Chamber of
Commerce

Located at the Laurel Outlook
415 East Main

for information about:

- ✓ 4th of July
- ✓ Herbstfest
- ✓ Christmas Lighting
- ✓ Chief Joseph/
Nez Perce Trail

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Pryor Range Home To Wild Horse Herd



Donna Delp Photo

The Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range straddles the Montana-Wyoming border about 13 miles north of Lovell, Wyoming, adjacent to the Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area. Created in 1968 by order of the Secretary of the Interior, it is the first of three wild horse ranges in the nation.

A herd totaling about one hundred horses may be spotted in various locations of the Pryor Mountains set aside as wild horse range. The range is managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

The wild horses of the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range are unique. Some experts state that the wild horses have been in the Pryor Mountains nearly a hundred years.

The wild horses roam over their range in bands from two

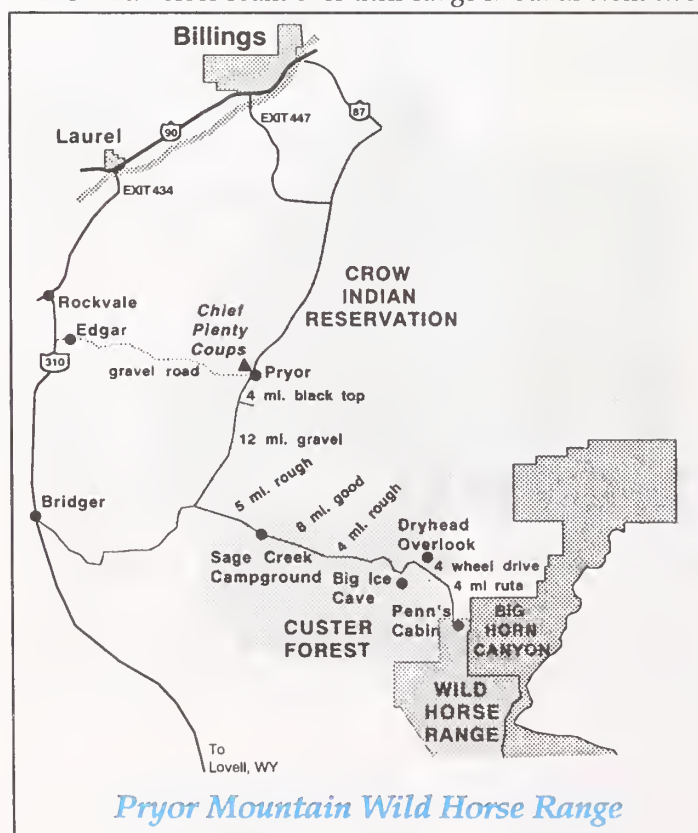
or three up to fifteen head. Usually these bands are a stallion with his mares and colts, but there are also bands of young stallions without mares. As the snow clears from the top of the mountains in the spring, nearly all of the wild horses are drawn to the grass of the high meadows. When winter snows force them down from the mountaintops, the bands of horses will join those that stayed in the foothills and lowlands. Mares usually drop their foals during May. Soon afterward, the stallions challenge each other as they gather mares for their bands. This period is a time of wonderful photographic opportunities.

How to get to the Wild Horse Range

When you are traveling in Montana, the easiest access to the range is from Billings as a starting point. The journey is a total of 77 miles south of Billings on a variety of roadbeds, some of which are impassable when wet. Follow the map shown on this page. Two-wheel drive, low-profile vehicles are not recommended. Four-wheel drive vehicles are best. From Dryhead Overlook, particularly, the road is just a trail, and high clearance vehicles are needed. The horses can normally be seen in the four-mile stretch between Dryhead Overlook and Penn's Cabin.

Visitors traveling by passenger car to Montana through Lovell, Wyoming, may reach the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range by taking U.S. 14A for 2.4 miles east of Lovell. Here, turn north onto State Highway 37 and drive 25 miles on pavement to Barry's Landing. Along the way watch for wild horses and bighorn sheep. The view from the Devil's Canyon Overlook is spectacular.

For the more adventurous and those with 4-wheel drive vehicles, turn off State Highway 37 at the Crooked Creek Road. The turnoff is less than 1 mile south of the Bighorn Recreation Area boundary. Turn from the state highway and go 1.7 miles west. Turn right on the short, cottonwood-lined gravel road that goes north across Crooked Creek. At this junction a sign points left to Tillet/Burnt Timber Ridge and right to Sykes Ridge. Take the road to Sykes Ridge 2.5 miles and turn left (north) just before the road goes into the fish hatchery. The Wild Horse Range boundary sign is approximately 100 yards north. A second sign reads "Mystery Cave Road." Keep watching to spot the wild horses.





Plenty Coups

*Great Chief
Of the Crows
Gave His Home
To Be Used
By All People
In Friendship*

The Chief Plenty Coups Memorial is 35 miles south of Billings at Pryor. Take I-90 exit 445, then turn right (south) on Hwy 416. Follow 416 south to the junction of Pryor Road. Turn south and follow the signs south to one mile west of Pryor.

The park is open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and the visitor center/museum is open daily from May 1 to September 30. Museum hours are 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. In addition to the museum is Chief Plenty Coups' homestead, the medicine spring and a memorial to his peace efforts and to the Crow Indians.

A spacious picnic area is fully developed with tables, grills, restrooms and drinking water. Camping is not allowed and visitors should be familiar with recreation area rules and regulations.

Entrance fees will be charged at the park and can be paid either upon entering the park or at the museum. Fees consist of an annual family passport for \$15.00, \$3.00 per carload, or a walk in fee of 50¢ per person.

A brochure is available at local information centers and at the site. The museum phone number is (406) 252-1289.



The Chief Plenty Coups complex was the site of a Quincentennial celebration in 1992, as a time of healing between Indian and non-Indian cultures. Programs involving youth were the focus of the event. Here Indians and non-Indians learn to set up a teepee.

Park Manager Rich Pittsley tells the story of this Crow Indian headdress. It is a replica of the original eagle feather headdress which the Crow leader placed on the casket of the unknown American soldier at Arlington Cemetery. The original remains on display in Arlington, Virginia.



Plenty Coups donated his home and surroundings to be used by all people in friendship. When he died in 1932, it became a park, eventually managed by the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department. In his park dedication speech he said, "This park is not to be a memorial to me, but to the Crow Nation. It is given as a token of my friendship for all people both red and white."



Plenty Coups, Chief of the Crows. Photo taken in 1905.



Enjoy golfing in Custer Country from early spring through "Indian Summer."

Photo courtesy of Forsyth Golf Course

Visitors are always welcome on these golf courses in Custer Country. You're invited to stop and test your skills as well as enjoy the 19th hole. Well-groomed fairways and friendly people await you. Though our courses are rarely crowded, you'll still want to call for a tee-time.

1. **Baker.** Lakeview Country Club, 9 holes; club & cart rental; driving range; pro shop; putting green; some fast food snacks, beverage & cocktail service. 10% off green fees with this ad. South of Baker on Airport Road. No tee times needed during the week. (406) 778-3166

2. **Broadus.** Rolling Hills Golf Course, 3 miles west of Broadus at the Y. 9 holes; pro shop; driving range; putting green; food and beverage service; cart and club rental; no tee-time needed during the week. (406) 436-9984

3. **Miles City.** Town and Country Club, southwest edge of Miles City; 9 holes; cart and club rental; pro shop; driving range; practice putting greens; food and beverage services. Award winning professional staff. (406) 232-1500 *

4. **Colstrip.** The Ponderosa Butte Public Golf Course, 1 Long Drive, Club House & Pro shop. Very challenging 9 hole course. Excellent practice facilities. Located across the street from the high school. Food & beverage services. Rentals available. (406) 748-2700 *

5. **Hardin.** Fort Custer Golf Course, 3.5 miles north of Hardin; 9 holes; pro shop; cart rental; food & beverage services. (406) 665-2597

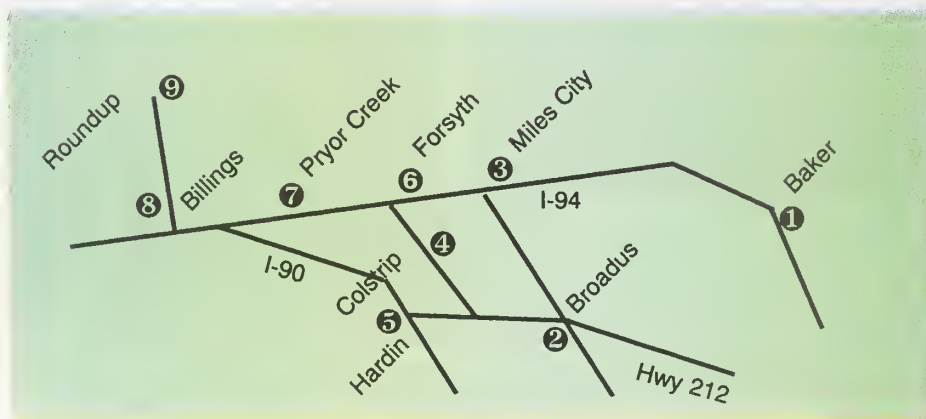
6. **Forsyth.** Forsyth Country Club and Golf Course, 3 miles west of Forsyth on Frontage Road off I-94 Exit 93; 9 holes; club and cart rentals; driving range; pro shop; dining and cocktails. (406) 356-7710

7. **Pryor Creek.** Pryor Creek Golf Club and Estates, 15 miles east of Billings, I-94 Exit 6 (Huntley exit); 27 holes; cart and club rental; pro shop; full driving range; food and beverage services. Private Club. Pro can extend invitation. (406) 256-0626 *

8. **Billings.** Lake Hills, 1930 Club House Way; 18 holes; cart rental; pro shop; driving range; dining and cocktails. (406) 252-9244 *

9. **Roundup.** Pine Ridge Golf Course, 9 holes; club and cart rental; driving range; pro shop; food and beverage service. 10% off green fees with this ad. North of Roundup. (406) 323-2880

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METRAPARK

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		1	2	3	4	5						1	2
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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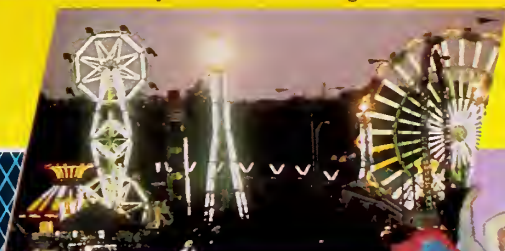
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For information about these events and others, call (406) 256-2400 or toll free in Montana & border states, 1-800-366-8538. Metra Park, P.O. Box 2514, Billings, MT 59103

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